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SEATO RECORD

l. VIII No. 3

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- 14th COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING
- 30th MILITARY ADVISERS CONFERENCE
- SEATO EXERCISE 'SEA SPIRIT'

SEATO RECORD

SEATO RECORD features significant events in South-East Asia, as well as activities of the Organization and its member nations. It reports statements which reflect attitudes or policies related to SEATO's role as a defensive organization.

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●

SEATO REGIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

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Philippines —

SEATO Vocational Training Centre, Marikina.

●

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SEATO Clinical Research Centre, Bangkok.

Pakistan —

Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory, Dacca.

●

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COVER PICTURE:

Personalities of the month so far as SEATO was concerned were undoubtedly the chief delegates to the 14th Council of Ministers' Meeting held in Bangkok in May. They are pictured here in a montage of faces together with the Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargus, in the centre.

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SEATO

...And the higher price of vigilance

ALTHOUGH the Foreign Ministers attending SEATO's recent 14th Council of Ministers' Meeting emphasized the need in one way or another for the Organization to be streamlined and to some extent modified so as to combat more effectively the increasing threat of Communist subversion and infiltration within the Treaty Area, all were unanimous in their conviction that the Organization, far from being obsolete, continues to be both an effective and essential deterrent to aggression and as such, the only possible set-up of its kind that can fulfill the obligations of its unique role at the present time.

What is more, the opening speeches by delegates showed a continued determination to support the Organization's activities, both military and civil, in every possible way consistent with resources available.

Such pledges were reflected in a key paragraph of the final communique which stressed that greater emphasis should be placed "on political consultations, counter-insurgency and economic and cultural co-operation to make the Organization's role more effective and responsive to the new Communist tactics being employed to undermine the stability and orderly progress of free societies."

Even more significant was the disclosure made by the Secretary-General for the first time at the closing Press Conference of the Meeting, that there was in existence—indeed has been in existence for sometime—an Expert Study Group whose very tasks tally with the expressed desire by the delegates for a greater stress to be laid on counter-insurgency activities.

With SEATO's image thus fortified, with its critics in many senses confounded, it was a cruel quirk of fate that during the Organization's massive maritime exercise 'Sea Spirit', launched so soon after the Council of Ministers' Meeting and the Military Advisers' Conference, a disastrous collision should occur between two of the participating vessels with the loss of 74 lives.

With a 14-foot gaping hole, slashed in her bow, both above and below the water line, the Aircraft Carrier, HMAS Melbourne, could do little more than limp towards the nearest port. Moreover, as flagship of the convoy phase and thus the control and nerve centre of the whole of the convoy fleet, it was inevitable that the decision had to be taken to terminate the actual convoy part of the operation.

THE OBJECTIVE VIEWPOINT

It may be argued that under actual war-time conditions—which SEATO exercises are designed to simulate as closely as possible—destroyers escorting convoys, if attacked or sunk, are considered expendable with rescue operations strictly limited by one overriding consideration: that the safety of the convoy should not be further endangered.

Nobody for a moment would suggest that such an unwritten rule should be adhered to during manoeuvres in time of peace. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied—leaving understandable emotion and sentiment aside—that the incident itself in a strictly objective sense constituted an unrehearsed situation that might very well have arisen in war-time, and thus provided an occasion to put to the test those very aptitudes, skills and initiatives which officers and men would be called upon to exercise in the event of such an emergency arising under actual, instead of simulated, battle conditions.

In this instance, quite apart from the extensive search and rescue operation that swung into action within minutes of the disaster, numerous individual acts of heroism were performed by sailors of the Melbourne and their surviving shipmates from the Evans resulting in the saving of many more lives which would otherwise have been lost in addition to the 74 men who perished. In less than 15 minutes after the collision had occurred all survivors from the Frank E. Evans had been picked up.

OTHER PHASES CONTINUED

Meanwhile, the other phases of Exercise 'Sea Spirit'—extensive minesweeping operations by units of the Australian, Thai, US and UK navies off Sattahip Port in Thailand; the naval control of shipping in the Thailand area; and a land based Command Post Exercise went ahead as scheduled.

Only by carrying through these other phases of the Exercise to their logical conclusion were the principal objectives fulfilled. To have done otherwise would have been not only a betrayal of the wishes of those who perished, but a betrayal of the cause which SEATO is pledged to uphold, as was echoed by the Secretary-General of SEATO at the Memorial Service held in Bangkok's International Church.

Here, before a large congregation, he said: "As the gallant men who perished would have us do, we must forge ahead...our ships must sail on; our planes fly on; and our soldiers plod on in eternal vigilance over peace and freedom. To do less would be to fail them and to fail as well the cause of free men everywhere."

Welcome to the 14th Council Meeting

WELCOMING DELEGATES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MEETING IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE, BANGKOK, IS THAILAND'S PRIME MINISTER, FIELD MARSHAL THANOM KITTIKACHORN. HE IS SHAKING HANDS WITH CARLOS P. ROMULO OF THE PHILIPPINES.

COMMUNIQUE

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 14th COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING HELD IN BANGKOK LAST MONTH.

THE Council of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization held its fourteenth meeting in Bangkok from 20 May to 21 May 1969, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Thanat Khoman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

The Council agreed that the most significant development during the past year has been the prospects for peace in the area opened up by the Paris meetings and by the determined efforts of the United States and the Republic of Vietnam in close consultation with their allies to bring about a peaceful and just solution to the Vietnam conflict.

The Council noted that economic and social progress had continued during the past year within the Treaty Area. The Council agreed that this progress had been achieved mainly by the individual efforts of the countries in the region, and by the further strengthening of regional co-operation which reflects a growing consciousness of mutual interests. The Council also noted that this achievement had been made without sacrifice of human liberty and fundamental freedoms. The Council noted that these political, economic and social advances would not have been possible without the shield which the Manila Treaty has helped to provide over the past fourteen years.

The Council agreed that aggression, both overt and by subversion, infiltration and terrorism, instigated or supported by external Communist movements, remains a major threat to the peace and security of the Area. The Council expressed its conviction that the threat in the Treaty Area cannot be considered in isolation from problems of international peace and security, and that the outcome of the struggle now going on against such aggression in South-East Asia will have profound effects throughout the world. The Council expressed its determination that this aggression must not be allowed to succeed.

THE SEARCH FOR PEACE

The Council commended the determination of the Republic of Vietnam, and the governments helping to defend it, to bring about a peace in Vietnam under which the people of South Vietnam will be assured of their right to determine their own future, free from outside interference and terrorism. The Council noted with approval the proposals which have been made

by the Republic of Vietnam and the United States for the mutual withdrawal of external forces from South Vietnam, for respect for the demilitarized zone, for full implementation of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, for respect for the sovereignty, independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia and for the release of all prisoners of war. The Council noted that these proposals not only recognize the realities of the situation in South-East Asia today, but are firmly based on the precedents of the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements. The Council noted that the Paris talks have been going on for a year and expressed the hope that the other side would now respond constructively to these proposals.

The Council expressed its conviction that serious negotiations based on the above proposals would lead to an end of hostilities and to peace and reconciliation in Vietnam.

The Council noted that the fundamental allied objective in Vietnam is to ensure the unconditional right of self-determination for the people of South Vietnam. The Council agreed that, whatever the difficulties, the intensive search for a just and lasting peace must continue until this objective is attained and stability and security are assured.

THE VIETNAM SCENE

The Council heard with deep interest a statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Vietnam. The Council expressed its concern and sympathy for the Vietnamese people who have suffered so long. It reaffirmed its admiration for the courage with which the Government and people of the Republic of Vietnam are defending their freedom.

The Council noted the commendable progress being made by the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam in improving their ability to withstand the armed aggression and to counter subversive activity. The Council warmly welcomed the expressed determination of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam progressively to assume responsibility for the defence of its territory.

The Council also welcomed the continued progress that has been made by the Republic of Vietnam in the political, economic and social fields, in particular, the evolution and strengthening of democratic and representative government.

The Council noted with deep concern North Vietnam's continuing aggression by means of armed attack against the Republic of Vietnam. The Council deplored the conduct of North Vietnam, particularly while peace negotiations are in progress, in continuing indiscriminate attacks on the civilian population. The Council noted with regret that this aggression is sustained by a heavy flow of weapons and supplies from other Communist regimes.

The Council noted with appreciation the increases during the past year in the military, economic and humanitarian assistance by Member Governments to the Republic of Vietnam, in fulfilment of, or consistent with, their obligations under the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty. The Council also noted with appreciation the substantial assistance which the Republic of Vietnam has continued to receive from the Republic of Korea and other countries which are not members of SEATO.

COMMUNIQUE

COMMUNIQUE

The Council stated its conviction that the effective defence of the Republic of Vietnam in its current struggle is essential to the security of South-East Asia and will demonstrate that Communist expansion through aggression of this kind will not be permitted.

The Council noted that reconstruction in Vietnam, which awaits the achievement of peace, will open the way to a new era of development and progress for the peoples and nations of the entire region. The Council noted the intention of the member nations of SEATO to continue their aid to the Republic of Vietnam and to contribute to the work of reconstruction. The Council welcomed the expressions of intent by other nations around the world to participate in this urgent task.

THE LAOS SCENE

The Council noted with grave concern that North Vietnam, in violation of the 1962 Geneva Agreements, continues to maintain military forces, including large units of its regular army, in Laos, to commit armed attack on the forces of the Royal Government of Laos, and to use Laotian territory for infiltrating troops and supplies into the Republic of Vietnam and to support insurgency in Thailand.

The Council reiterated its call for full implementation by all signatories of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos and expressed support for the earnest efforts of Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma and the Royal Government of Laos to secure peace and to preserve the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of Laos.

THE PHILIPPINES SCENE

The Council was pleased to note the recent successes achieved by Government forces against insurgents in Central Luzon and the vigorous efforts by all agencies of the Government of the Philippines, with support of member nations, to implement an integrated socio-economic programme designed to eliminate the root cause of the complex insurgency problem in Central Luzon.

Since one of the causes of agrarian unrest among the masses is the land problem, the Council also noted with approval the efforts of the Philippine Government to accelerate the implementation of the Land Reform Code. The Council further noted the achievements of the Government of the Philippines in the development of its rural areas and expressed its gratification at the continuing high priority given to irrigation, feeder roads, health, electrification, credit, and agricultural productivity programmes.

The Council noted proposals by the Philippines for a Youth Volunteer Corps, a Special Problem Office, a University of South-East Asia, a Rural Health Training Centre, and Refugee Rehabilitation.

THE THAILAND SCENE

The Council noted that the Royal Thai Government had increased during the year the major contribution it is making to the defence of the Republic of Vietnam. In addition to air and naval units already in Vietnam, it dispatched a division of ground forces to aid in the struggle. This was done despite the continued threat of Communist-inspired insurgency within Thailand itself. The Council was gratified by the determined endeavours of the Royal Thai Government and people to encourage economic and social development and to counter subversive activities directed from outside Thai borders. These efforts have continued under the newly formed Government following the national elections held early this year.

The Council expressed concern at the increase in Communist infiltration and terrorist activities particularly in remote areas of North and North-East Thailand. The Council noted with satisfaction the intensive efforts of the Royal Thai Government to provide greater security and a higher standard of living for the rural population and the vigorous measures taken by Thai authorities to eliminate the threat of Communist insurgency. The Council reiterated its determination to continue to assist Thailand in meeting this threat.

The Council again affirmed its support for SEATO activities designed to aid member countries in the Treaty Area to counter Communist subversion. It noted the high degree of success achieved by the Secretary-General in the provision of such assistance and requested him to continue his efforts in this field.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE ROLE

The Council welcomed as a substantial contribution to the security of the area the decisions of the Governments of Australia and New Zealand to maintain military forces in Malaysia and Singapore at the request of those Governments. The Council also welcomed the proposed consultations in Canberra between the Governments of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

COUNTER SUBVERSION

The Council reaffirmed the importance which it attaches to the Organization as a deterrent to Communist aggression and as a source of support to member nations in the Area in countering Communist subversion. The Council was convinced that greater emphasis should be placed on political consultations, counter-insurgency, and economic and cultural co-operation, to make the Organization's role more effective and more responsive to the new Communist tactics being employed to undermine the stability and orderly progress of free societies. The Council expressed its support for co-operative endeavours to this effect.

The Council noted the Report of the Military Advisers and commended the work of the Military Planning Office during the past year, in particular the excellent work done in keeping plans up-to-date and in designing military exercises.

The Council expressed its satisfaction at the progress achieved by the Organization in programmes related to economic development cultural affairs and medical research. It commended the efforts of the Organization to keep these programmes under review to ensure that they proved complementary to programmes for counter-insurgency and civic action. The Council agreed that the value of these programmes has been fully demonstrated and that they deserve the active support of all Members.

OTHER MATTERS

The Pakistan Delegate wished it to be recorded that he did not participate in the drafting of the Communique and that the views expressed in it do not necessarily reflect the position of the Government of Pakistan.

The Council accepted with pleasure the invitation of the Government of the Philippines to hold its Fifteenth Meeting in the Philippines in 1970.

The Council expressed gratitude to the Royal Thai Government and the people of Thailand for their generous hospitality and warm welcome, and its appreciation for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

All Member Governments, except France, participated. The Republic of Vietnam, a Protocol State, was represented by an observer.

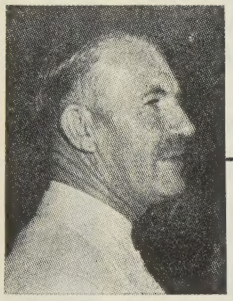
The leaders of the Delegations to the Fourteenth Council Meeting were:

AUSTRALIA: *Hon. Gordon Freeth, M.P., Minister for External Affairs;* **NEW ZEALAND:** *Right Hon. Keith Holyoake, C.H.. M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs;* **PAKISTAN:** *H.E. Mr. M. Hayat Junejo, Ambassador to Thailand;* **PHILIPPINES:** *H.E. Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs;* **THAILAND:** *H.E. Mr. Thanat Khoman, Minister of Foreign Affairs;* **UNITED KINGDOM:** *Right Hon. Lord Shepherd, P.C., Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office;* **UNITED STATES:** *Hon. William P. Rogers, Secretary of State;* **REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (OBSERVER):** *H.E. Mr. Tran Chanh Thanh, Minister of Foreign Affairs.*

WHAT THEY SAID:

Extracts from the opening statements by delegates attending the 14th SEATO Council of Ministers' meeting in Bangkok.

AUSTRALIA



Gordon Freeth, Minister, for External Affairs

'Stability and security go hand in hand with economic and social development. Each depends on the other'

"...Our common interest here is in regional security; this Organization is the expression of the concern member countries both inside and outside the region have for the stability and security and welfare of this important area of the world. It is the common desire and intention of members to ensure that the countries of this region shall be able to determine their own destinies, to plan their own future, as they choose, free from outside interference and to preserve their national independence. It is not a static, shoring-up operation that we are engaged on. We want to ensure that the peoples of the region have, and keep firmly within their own hands, the opportunities and the means for peaceful change and development.

"In this region, the most testing challenge to this objective of ours continues to be in South Vietnam but very considerable progress has been made towards the attainment of our objectives since SEATO Ministers last met.

"We want the Paris talks to succeed. Our feeling is that the negotiations will need to be conducted with great patience. The South Vietnamese and Americans in Paris have shown that they are ready to explore sincerely all openings and proposals but the North Vietnamese have to know that the Allies do not intend to grab at anything simply to be able to pull their forces out. Whatever time is needed, the Allies must be prepared to take to secure a just and lasting settlement.

"I turn from the specific question of Vietnam, where actual hostilities are taking place today, to broader regional questions. Stability and security go hand in hand with economic and social development. Each depends on the other. Regional security arrangements are a

foundation on which wider endeavours take place. But they are not the only ingredients; co-operation within the region through other organizations and measures is essential, is growing, and is to be encouraged.

"Members individually work in, or in support of, other regional bodies like ECAFE, ASPAC, ASEAN, and the Asian Development Bank. We should not seek to advance only through one body, or in association only with the countries represented here. Many of our objectives can be attained only in wider agreement and association. But in this network of international co-operation in the region, SEATO has a special part to play.

"We in Australia place considerable reliance upon SEATO and on what it represents to our own security. We continue to offer it our strong support and interest. But SEATO is much more than the opportunity for an annual meeting of Ministers, vital though this is. It is a point of continuing contact and co-operation throughout the year and a tangible expression of our common interest. It represents a means for access to one another's thinking and for practical co-operation. During our present meetings, we shall be considering means of developing further the work being done in pursuance of the SEATO Treaty.

"We, for our part, feel deep concern about Communist subversion and insurgency which we assess as a threat, present or potential, to stability and security in South East Asian countries. The threat of Communist insurgency in South-East Asia receives recognition in the planning on the Military side of the Organization. On the civil side too, there has been activity. The Secretary-General has staff concerned with the problem of counter-subversion and some useful work has already been done. These problems have to be approached without over-simplified thinking. We have to distinguish between subversion and legitimate dissent, between rebellion and necessary change. We have to take account, too, of the differences between Peking and Moscow, and of the reflection of those differences in South-East Asia. All this makes it unrealistic to slap labels indiscriminately on every form of unrest and to attempt to cope with them all in the same way.

"Australia's practical, continuing role in the region has been demonstrated again in the last few months. The Australian Government has announced its readiness to maintain forces of all three services in Malaysia and Singapore, at the invitation of the two Governments, after 1971 when the withdrawal of British forces from the area is scheduled to be completed.

"We have done this as a measure of our continuing interest in and support for regional security in the area... A meeting of the Governments of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, and the United Kingdom is to be held shortly in Canberra to consider consequential action to give effect to the decisions that have been taken. We view all this as a contribution to the security and stability of all the countries of the region and not merely of the countries directly participating."

Keith Holyoake, Prime Minister

'Through its economic and cultural activities SEATO has played an important part in helping promote progress and increased understanding between the governments and peoples of member countries'

"We meet here today allied by a common concern to promote security, stability and progress in South-East Asia. These are the aims of SEATO. At times SEATO has concentrated more on security than other aspects of its work. That is understandable enough because it is only in conditions of security and freedom from external aggression that countries can improve living conditions and satisfy political and cultural aspirations.

"Security threats are the most urgent concern of them all. SEATO's aims are not static. We're not opposed to change, nor do we seek to preserve the status quo at all costs. But we believe that change should be orderly and peaceful. The use of aggression and terrorism to effect change can't be condoned.

"Where aggression goes unchallenged it simply encourages those who believe in violence as a means of achieving their aims. This is essentially the issue in South Vietnam. Our aim there is not the purely negative one of maintaining the status quo. It's the positive aim of allowing the people of South Vietnam the right to make progress in their own way under a Government of their own choice.

"We all recognise that powerful forces are at work in Asia as in other parts of the world. Governments and people everywhere are facing up to the challenge posed by modern technology in the scientific, agricultural, industrial and education fields. National societies can only thrive if they're prepared to look forward and move forward. And the countries of South-East Asia have demonstrated most definitely that they are determined to move forward, to implement new techniques, new ways of life, and to provide a better life for their people.

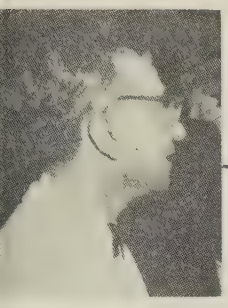
"Significant progress is being made in a number of areas. Through its economic and cultural activities SEATO has played an important part in helping promote progress and increased understanding between the Governments and peoples of these countries. The progress that has been made has been possible only because governments have been secure against aggression and the threat of attack.

"The conflict in war-torn Vietnam and the search for a stable peace there have implications that go far beyond its borders. The outcome of the war and the nature of the peace will set the framework within which the countries of Asia and the Pacific will have to chart their future destiny. They ask for nothing more than the opportunity to continue to improve their economic and cultural prospects in conditions of political stability and social harmony, free from the threat of subversion and insurgency in the guise of so-called Communist 'wars of national liberation'...

"The members of our alliance have a continuing responsibility and a continuing challenge in the search for peace and progress in Vietnam and indeed in South-East Asia and the Pacific Area.

"My Government in New Zealand will continue to play its part in fulfilling the aspirations of SEATO and of the peoples of the member countries of the Organization."

PAKISTAN



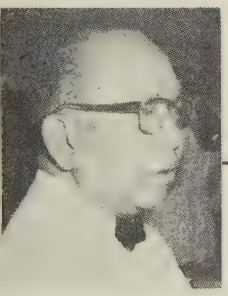
Mohammad Hayat Junejo, Ambassador to Thailand

'As a developing country we are engaged in a tremendous task of nation building. Our efforts can succeed only if we live in conditions of peace and goodwill'

"While the continuing hostilities in South-East Asia still cause concern, we fervently hope that a negotiated peace will soon end the conflict and thus enable the war-afflicted people to lead a life of peace and happiness.

"Mr. Chairman, my Government are dedicated to the cause of peace. As a developing country we are engaged in a tremendous task of nation building. Our efforts can succeed only if we live in conditions of peace and goodwill. This cardinal principle of our policy was reiterated in the statement which the President of Pakistan made soon after assumption of office."

PHILIPPINES



Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs

'It will be necessary to continue to broaden the Organization's non-military activities, of which there are even today a gratifying diversity in scientific, cultural, community development, and educational fields'

"It was fifteen years ago when the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty, or SEATO, was founded in Manila. Since then many events have taken place in the same region, and indeed throughout Asia. Only a year after the founding of SEATO, the first Afro-Asian Conference in history was held in Bandung, Indonesia. That was one of the first among many occasions when it came under attack, and had to be defended.

"We are all aware of SEATO's inherent defects, of its weaknesses and its frustrations. Some of its best friends, as well as its enemies, have referred to it often in uncomplimentary terms such as 'moribund', a 'dismal failure', 'anachronistic', 'impotent', 'a paper tiger'. In the case of Laos, in 1962, and Vietnam, in 1964, it failed crucially. In its defence function, like NATO, it has never been tested; but, unlike NATO, it is incapable of immediate response. It is, in fact, an ineffective instrument for collective security due to restraints in its formal provisions for taking action, in both instances of external aggression

and internal subversion, but mainly because of a basic lack of unity and consensus among member countries.

"One can, in fact, raise against it a long bill of particulars. But rather than join the swelling chorus, I find it important to invoke just one little question: Is there really a realistic alternative? There is none.

"Thus I find it significant that after assisting in its inception, and standing up to defend the Philippines' role in SEATO fourteen years ago in Bandung against the criticism of the non-aligned States, I am here today with a message to re-affirm my Government's commitment to this Alliance...

"SEATO is a thoroughly mature concept and organization; it exists in an environment that has witnessed many transformations.

"In a world where ideas and concepts are being turned inside out, the one beacon that appears to shine undimmed is that of national interest, of which the basic dimension is self-preservation against threats from any quarter. For any country or group of countries to rely on another for protection is not necessarily to submit to that country's domination. In blunter terms, much of the patina of romantic idealism that excited the imagination of a generation of Asian leaders has washed off, leaving us today with the problem of how to survive in the face of great power nationalism.

"Asia and the Pacific happens to be a region where domination by one Power or by many Powers has long been either a reality, of a threat to the lives and well-being of millions and to the viability or new and fragile nationhoods. To the United States herself, to whom the region represents the farther reaches of her expanding western frontier, this danger has been a matter of historical concern. It is for this reason that this same country, in spite of her own participation in the colonial venture, had so often acted consistently with the notion that no one country or group of countries should hold the region in thrall so as to suppress the aspirations of the peoples in it. The cynical would naturally ascribe this impulse to the pragmatic imperatives of trade and industry, or to a vain self-righteousness, or even to neuroticism.

"The problem, in fact, has resolved itself into quite understandable terms: the need for the developing countries of the region to proceed along the paths of development with the least interference from any power, relying for the most part on their own resources. Local resources being limited as they are, the value of regional sharing and co-operation is well recognized and has given birth to many regional schemes expressive of a mutuality of interests, such as ASA, ASEAN, SEAMES, ASPAC, the Asian Development Bank, and the many instances of actual collaboration of which the region can be proud.

"All these could not have been possible were it not for the singular commitment made by the United States, symbolized by SEATO, to defend the region from any aggression. I use the term "symbolize," for it was never necessary for any actual defence to be undertaken in the face of an overt attack. Whether or not the intention did in fact serve to deter aggression will always remain a debatable point, but the fact remains, and it bears repeating, that no member country of SEATO ever had to face an external Communist intrusion.

"Thus the military aspects of SEATO had remained at the symbolic level, leaving the question of the necessity for the Alliance ever in doubt. But, while criticisms on this score arise, which of the countries comprising SEATO would have wanted it otherwise? A guarantee is not less real for not being tested. Only in the case of the Protocol States has there been much hesitation and, eventually, paralysis of resolve and action.

"SEATO has, therefore, provided the minimum framework within which the relatively defenceless nations of South-East Asia could get on with their plans for development, and ultimately to become responsible for their own security. The situation in this respect has not changed much; if anything, there is a need for stronger guarantees in view of the withdrawal of France from active engagement in Asian affairs and the impending departure of the British presence. It is also becoming obvious to everyone that China has acceded to the ranks of a great power in the region, and will increasingly demand to be treated as such.

"There is always the possibility that someday it will be possible to establish some kind of an understanding among the great powers with interests in the region, such as China, the Soviet Union, and the United States herself, to guarantee the neutrality of the region, under a Locarno-type of arrangement, as proposed by the former Assistant Secretary for Far Eastern Affairs, Mr. Roger Hilsman, and by the former President of France, General De Gaulle. This kind of guarantee is not incompatible with those of SEATO. Hopefully, the direction in this respect is toward a general *detente* in the region, with all countries having free access to each other, to each other's goods and assistance, in a spirit of friendliness and goodwill, for no one desires to live in a state of perpetual fear and mistrust. Under those conditions, SEATO would have outlived its usefulness.

"It is my Government's belief that those conditions are still wanting, and remain only in the realm of desire and possibility. Until such time, it is necessary to be prudent, for at stake is the welfare of our nation and our posterity.

"Even as we re-affirm these constants, we are not precluded from exercising our freedom of action. This is, indeed, a time to be mature and forward-looking in our outlook. SEATO is badly in need of repair and re-outfitting, if it is to be a positive factor in fulfilling the crescive aspirations of the peoples of the area.

"What must be done is to place SEATO squarely in the front ranks of the region-wide endeavour to intensify political, social, economic, and cultural co-operation. The objectives of these efforts are clear. Economic development through regional co-operative schemes, mutual assistance and sharing, forging national and regional identities, and, in general, bringing strengths up to the level, as in NATO, where the region can become responsible for any further growth and for its own defence from external, or internal, aggression, are the major aims of our movement.

"These objectives are without a doubt popular throughout South-East Asia, not to mention the other parts of Asia. It is, therefore, logical for the Organization to begin to draw into its ranks the other countries of South-East Asia who share in the same dreams of freedom and prosperity. Those who are now wary of this association must be

persuaded that no threat to their integrity exists, that, on the other hand, their participation is needed to ensure the day when South-East Asia becomes forever free from the importunings of great and predatory powers.

"The goal can be attained, I believe, by purifying SEATO, stripping it of myths, and clarifying its purposes. It will be necessary to continue to broaden the Organization's non-military activities, of which there are even today a gratifying diversity in scientific, cultural, community development, and educational fields. The growing variety of these programmes, together with parallel activities of the other regional associations, make some kind of co-ordination necessary.

"It is necessary to render SEATO attractive to the other countries of the region, and to expand the range of its versatilities. It is time, for example, to involve those sectors which heretofore had not participated as much as they could have—the women and the youth of the region.

The Organization must address itself more purposefully to the development goals of the region. For some way must be found to make SEATO acquire an image and an identity more congenial to the peaceful desires of the ordinary citizen. To this end it will be useful for SEATO to establish direct links with the other regional organizations, and to make common cause with them, in a concerted move to erase poverty and disease, raise living standards, contribute to the pool of technical skills. To a large extent, SEATO is doing just these things, but they need to be brought to the fore, just as there is a need to develop the capabilities of SEATO to conduct guerrilla warfare against the forces seeking to destroy nations. The one way by which SEATO can do these things is to develop an intelligent approach to problems, to be able to mount, on short notice, action programmes, task forces, and study projects. For these things, there already exist the requisite trained personnel. All that is needed is to employ these talents.

"The time has come, I feel, for plain talk on a subject that has become a matter for obfuscation."

THAILAND

Thanat Khoman,
Minister of Foreign Affairs

"As we now meet after over fifteen years of the Organization's existence, it is clear that SEATO today is hardly the same as when it was first set up by the Manila Treaty in 1954. Then Communist aggression in Korea had just been halted and the threat of Communist incursions into South East Asia loomed ominous and even imminent. Hence the necessity of building a dyke to stem the Communist tide in which the Western European nations that traditionally had substantial interests in the area were asked to participate.

'Our efforts and energies must be geared toward meeting new contingencies if we wish our Organization to be alive and to be able adequately to fulfil the functions entrusted to it'

"Since that time many changes have taken place in various parts of the world and particularly in South East Asia. The traditional responsibility and direct interests assumed by the far away nations of Europe have dwindled. There remains, however, a general interest in the comprehensive problem of the maintenance of peace and security in a world context. That is why such nations while reducing their participation in the Organization's various activities, notably in the military field, appear unwilling to sever their membership. On the contrary, they continue to show a reasonable interest in certain other aspects of the Organization's activities. Such being the case, it may not be unwise to take into account, on the one hand, the continuing interest of nations from other continents in the non-military aspects of the Organization's work and, on the other, the unique character of SEATO's membership which comprises nations from the four corners of the world. As a result thereof we may consider a re-orientation of our Organization toward making it a meaningful political forum for exchange of views on many matters of mutual concern and also for co-ordinating the policies of our respective countries to the best interests of each and all.

"The change of emphasis will not be prejudicial to the already nominal level of military activities, except in the area of military planning. Something of value may be gained by developing a useful political effectiveness to supplement the military weaknesses and complement the endeavours of nations to enhance the prospects for world peace and stability through more effective political and diplomatic media.

"On the other hand the form in which the threats and dangers to the free existence of nations in this area have materialized appears to have changed somewhat. While open aggression by conventional means can never be ruled out, it seems more likely that the aggressive forces will resort, as indeed they are already doing, to composite warfare methods called 'revolutionary wars' or 'liberation wars' which combine subversion, infiltration and insurgency campaigns with terrorism and propaganda, as well as psychological warfare systems.

"This insidious campaign of subversion, infiltration and incitement to violence is not limited to South East Asia. It has also been extended to western societies which totalitarian Communist protagonists seek to undermine and even destroy.

"In the light of the foregoing, it may be more realistic to adapt our Organization to the changing circumstances and requirements of our time. To persist in the original direction of meeting the danger in the conventional manner while the potential and actual aggressive forces have clearly indicated that they intend to go ahead with 'revolutionary' style and methods would be highly detrimental to our mutual interests.

"Adjustments and adaptations should be brought about to conform to present-day realities. Our efforts and energies must be geared toward meeting new contingencies if we wish our Organization to be alive and to be able adequately to fulfil the functions entrusted to it. Any other approach would doom it to complete impotency and failure. The choice is clearly before us. Shall we be able to make up our minds and proceed on the right course?"

UNITED KINGDOM

Lord Shepherd, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

'Although we are withdrawing from our military bases in Malaysia and Singapore, we intend to remain members of SEATO and we shall maintain an active interest in the affairs of South-East Asia'

"A great deal has happened in South-East Asia since the last meeting of the SEATO Council. The most significant event in the past twelve months has been the beginning of the Paris negotiations on Vietnam. There has also begun during this period the gradual implementation of the British decision, announced shortly before last year's meeting, to withdraw British forces from Malaysia and Singapore by the end of 1971.

It is not, of course, for me to comment at any length on the significance of the Paris negotiations. We underestimate neither the difficulties, nor the patience which is required of those directly involved in the search for a peaceful settlement. But I have no doubt at all that negotiation is the right policy. President Nixon in his speech on 14 May gave a positive and imaginative lead. We trust that the other side will see the wisdom of responding constructively to these proposals.

"And I should like to repeat that, as one of the co-Chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference, the British Foreign Secretary remains ready at any time, if the parties concerned believe that this would help to bring a settlement nearer, to take appropriate action.

"Our withdrawal from our military bases has, as you know, been forced upon us for economic reasons, and we can only regret that this should be so. However, I want to make two things clear: First, security is a world-wide affair. It has to be defended on all fronts.

"Despite our economic problems, we are still devoting a greater proportion of our national product to defence than any other nation in the world apart only from the two super-powers, the United States and the Soviet Union.

"We hope that our great and indeed recently increased contribution to European defence will be seen by our friends and allies as a major effort in the defence of the free world as a whole.

"Secondly, we for our part recognise the threats to world peace which exist in the area with which SEATO is concerned. Although we are withdrawing from our military bases in Malaysia and Singapore, we intend to remain members of SEATO, and we shall maintain an active interest in the affairs of South-East Asia.

"Militarily we shall retain, as part of our general capability based in Europe, the capacity to send a significant force to this region after the withdrawal has been completed, if, in our judgement, circumstances so demand. Moreover, we hope where possible to take a part in SEATO exercises. We shall also carry out training and other exercises from time to time in concert with our Commonwealth allies in Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

"A major reinforcement exercise is due to take place next year, when we shall demonstrate our ability rapidly to reinforce allied operations in South-East Asia with a significant force of our own.

"Our withdrawal arrangements are proceeding smoothly and without any significant difficulties. We hope that the special aid of some £75 million which we are giving to the Governments of Malaysia and Singapore for economic or military purposes, and the arrangements for the transfer to those governments free of charge of certain major fixed assets will help to contribute to their stabiliity and to ensure that no unnecessary economic hardship is suffered by the inhabitants of those countries as a result of our withdrawal.

"We are continuing to take part in discussions with these Governments and with our other Commonwealth allies, Australia and New Zealand, about the implications of our withdrawal and possible future defence arrangements in the area. As you will probably be aware, next month there is to be a further ministerial conference of these Commonwealth partners in Canberra which will take these discussions a stage further.

"It would of course be inappropriate for me to anticipate the outcome of this conference and, indeed, of any other discussions that will take place in the forum of the five Commonwealth powers. But I can assure you and your colleagues that we are as determined as anyone to ensure that the transition, in both military and economic terms, will be as smooth as possible.

"Her Majesty's Government recognise that economic and social development are absolutely fundamental if the peace and prosperity of the area are to be maintained, consonant with the legitimate expectations and aspirations of the people of the area.

"We recognise that the countries in the Treaty area are making very considerable efforts and achieving remarkable progress in these fields. We are glad that we are able to contribute towards this progress in the fields of economic and social developments which, when all is said and done, is the best way to counter whatever efforts the Communists may make to subvert the governments in the region. Indeed, in the past year the total of our overseas aid to developing countries has been £220 million pounds, nearly U.S. $530 million. Even though we are restricting expenditure on some of our most vital and essential domestic services, the field of overseas aid is one which we have not cut at all.

"I trust that when we have overcome our temporary economic difficulties, we shall then be in a position to play an even greater role. In channelling this aid, so important to the overall objective of maintaining stability in this area, we shall continue to operate through the variety of existing bilateral and multilateral arrangements.

"We know that the free countries of South-East Asia, faced with a continuing threat of Communist subversion and aggression, still need the help of their friends. In the field of countering and, indeed, preventing subversion, we ourselves have had some experience not only in this region, but across the globe; and we are ready and willing to contribute from this experience in any way which our friends find acceptable.

"I would sum up my approach to this meeting thus: The strength and stability of this region are of concern and importance to Britain and the British Government. They depend on military security and also increasingly on economic and social progress, and on self-help and co-operation on the part of the countries of the region themselves.

"It is my Government's firm resolve to give all the assistance they can and to behave as a good partner in SEATO."

UNITED STATES

William P. Rogers, Secretary of State

'...Security comes first. If governments are to sponsor ambitious programmes for economic development and social reform.... the first requisite is a prevailing sense of national security. SEATO, and the assistance provided in connection with it, have helped to provide a credible sense of security in Asia'

"Let me begin by stressing that the interest of the United States in Asia is not secondary to our interest in any other areas of the world. By reason of geography, resources, and common interests, the United States is a member of the Pacific Community. That is why the United States is a member and a strong supporter of SEATO.

"There have of course been profound changes in the trends of Asian affairs since the Pacific Charter was signed a decade and a half ago. Those were dark days: some governments in the area were insecure and unstable; most national economies were beset by the problems of recovering from the Second World War, of colonialism, of administrative inexperience; traditional rivalries darkened relations between neighboring states; the prospects seemed bleak; people were without much hope. Over it all hung a contagious fear that totalitarian communism—thrusting outward from mainland China—would become an irresistible political force in Asia.

"Since SEATO was first established there has been an extraordinary reversal in outlook: governments are more stable—and more responsive to the will and the needs of their people; co-operation has increased, as narrow nationalism has yielded to an emerging spirit of regionalism; some of the most rapidly developing countries in the world today are found in East Asia; industrialization is underway; rural reform is moving forward; communications are improving; goods and ideas flow more freely across national frontiers.

"These developments are still in an early stage and will have to be nourished carefully. But these are the encouraging new trends. They are supported by the new organizations in which the nations of Asia are developing the habits of international co-operation for the common good...

"The South-East Asia Treaty Organization cannot, of course, claim sole responsibility for these encouraging trends in Asian affairs. But we have seen again and again in the post-war world—not just in Asia but in Europe and elsewhere—that security comes first. If governments are to sponsor ambitious programmes for economic development and social reform—if citizens are to contribute the support such

programmes require—the first requisite is a prevailing sense of national security.

"Surely SEATO, and the assistance provided in connection with it have helped to provide a credible sense of security in Asia. In this indirect, but very real sense, the Pacific Charter can be considered as a precondition for the healthy developments now in progress.

"This, in the broadest sense, is why my Government has so valued this Organization over the years—and why it will continue to value it in the future. This is why we continue to adhere to the Treaty and to regard the Rusk-Thanat communique as a valid restatement of the responsibilities set forth in Article IV (1) of the Treaty.

"Institutions, of course, adapt to new conditions and new opportunities, and SEATO is no exception. We believe it would be a good idea to have a look together at future tasks for SEATO. One suggestion is that we should concentrate on turning the assets of the Organization toward countering subversion We believe there may be merit in this—since the threat of externally-supported subversion is still an urgent one, and may be for years to come.

"Another suggestion is to consider the role of the Organization in the closely related field of economic development. These suggestions deserve our careful consideration. Meanwhile, SEATO is already well at work as an Asian security organization, as a forum for political consultations among its members, and as a sponsor of selected economic and technical and cultural projects.

"This is why the United States remains a loyal member and a steadfast supporter of SEATO. At the same time I must point out that my Government faces difficult decisions about how to allocate available resources against many urgent claims. These competing interests—for both domestic and overseas purposes—must somehow be balanced and compromised and reconciled. But this does not alter the underlying goal. We are dedicated at home to expanding individual freedoms, to better education, to equality of opportunity, to racial harmony, to improving the quality of life for all our people, most urgently in our crowded cities which suffer from the social and physical impacts of rapid urbanization and industrialization. These goals are enduring.

"My country also has enduring goals abroad. We are dedicated to the resolution of conflict by peaceful means, to the principle of national independence and the free choice by peoples of their own forms of government and their own leaders.

"Our allegiance to these goals in Asia is firm. Our interest in the prosperity and well-being of Asia and Asians is a permanent fixture of our foreign policy. I hope my presence here today will be accepted as one symbol of that fact.

"Our current position in Vietnam underscores this point. We want to achieve a peaceful settlement of a war that has cost everyone too much and lasted too long. But we believe that the people of South Vietnam should have the right to make their own decisions about their own future without interference or pressure from any outside quarter... When the war stops the immediate mission of our troops

will be fulfilled. But our long-term goals—our collective missions in South-East Asia will remain. Our long term goals are these:

"First is to make sure that the peace is not a lull between wars, but a lasting peace, guaranteed by collective security. Thus it is that we warmly welcome the far-sighted decision of our allies, Australia and New Zealand, to reinforce the security of South-East Asia by maintaining peace-keeping forces in Singapore and Malaysia.

"Second, after peace has been restored, we will continue working together for a dynamic, prosperous South-East Asia—free at last to turn its resources and its energies to meeting the aspirations of its peoples.

"In conclusion let me say that when our forces are no longer needed in South Vietnam, we shall not abandon in peace what we have fought for in war—the peaceful evolution of South-East Asia—playing its full and rightful part in an emerging, co-operative Pacific Community.

VIETNAM

Tran Chanh Thanh,
Minister of Foreign Affairs (observer)

'The Manila Treaty has very judiciously put the emphasis on measures designed both to promote economic progress and social well-being. The Republic of Vietnam firmly believes that economic development will build the real and lasting bulwark against subversion...'

"My Government believes that recent developments in Vietnam could demonstrate that the prospects of peace in Asia are bright, not because of any hasty arrangements, one could hope, but because genuine progress in the military political and economic fields in my country has noticeably blunted the Communists' aggressiveness. We also believe that the Vietnam war will eventually show that a united front of free countries still is, and will be, the only effective weapon against aggression.

"The first idea I should like to submit to the Council is that military events in Vietnam and the continuing Communist threats in other parts of Asia make it imperative that we today reaffirm our faith in the defensive commitment of our Organization... In its fundamental purposes, SEATO has been remarkably successful, for it has very effectively deterred all direct aggressive actions on the part of the Communists...

"The danger in South-East Asia derives now from what we may call aggression by proxy or aggression disguised as a policy of support in favour of the so-called 'national liberation' movements. We must see very clearly here that the nature of Communist aggression has not changed, for its very aim remains the search for domination and expansion. Only Communist strategy has evolved: a large-scale invasion was launched by surprise in Korea in 1950 whereas subversive activities preceded the prepared open aggression in South Vietnam and Laos most likely because the Communists did not wish to challenge directly the SEATO powers. I believe that those two aspects of Communist doctrine of conquest, outright aggression and aggression

by proxy, should be kept in mind, for Communist propaganda has succeeded in misleading ill-informed people into believing that 'wars of national liberation' are genuine uprisings.

"The second idea I should like to submit to the Council is that the Manila Treaty has very judiciously put the emphasis on measures designed both to promote economic progress and social well-being. The Republic of Vietnam firmly believes that economic development will build the real and lasting bulwark against subversion, which is the preliminary phase of the Communists' policy of aggression.

"Therefore, the Republic of Vietnam has followed with deep interest the considerable achievements by SEATO in the cultural and economic fields. Let us render homage here to promoters and executive members of such well-known bodies as the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering (now the Asian Intitute of Technology), various SEATO Skilled Labour Training Centres, the SEATO Clinical Research Centre in Bangkok, the Thai-SEATO Regional Community Development Technical Assistance Centre at Ubol, Thailand, etc. Those projects certainly will benefit countries other than members of SEATO, and this fact shows very eloquently indeed that SEATO is an Organization dedicated to the concept of common defence for the preservation of peace, and does not pursue any aggressive design.

"In this connexion, I should like to say that the Republic of Vietnam would welcome more non-military assistance from SEATO, and believes this will have long-term beneficial effects.

"I think that we should say very clearly that the idea behind SEATO is a very sound one, and that our Organization should be there as long as the stability of South-East Asia has not been altogether guaranteed. It could be argued that because some countries have judged that they should no longer concern themselves with the events in South-East Asia, the Organization has proved somewhat weak and hesitant, and thus has brought some critical comments on its necessity and efficiency. But it is my Government's view that even with its shortcomings, SEATO has played a useful role during the past fifteen years, and one fears to think of the number of aggressive acts Communist militancy would have perpetrated besides those in Vietnam, if there was not the defensive shield that the eight-nation members had decided to erect in 1954.

"It is equally important to remember that the civilian activities of SEATO have also made a valuable contribution to the cause of regional co-operation in Asia. For the above reasons, and in view of the precarious situation still prevailing in the region, the Republic of Vietnam feels that SEATO continues to play an important part in the context of Asian politics. Until another form of collective defence is found, SEATO is the only formal military pact protecting the independence of the nations of the region and the freedom of their peoples.

"Moreover, I should think that as long as the Communists keep believing in their doctrine of expansion by means of aggression and subversion we have to make clear that SEATO has provided a strong framework within which the signatory powers jointly or separately could any time commit themselves to the defence of the member countries and the protocol states..."

PREMIER THANOM KITTIKACHORN

TWO TOP M
SEATO'S V
THE CHESS

AS leader of the host country, Thailand, it fell upon Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn to welcome the delegates to the 14th SEATO Council of Ministers meeting with a speech at the opening ceremony in Government House in which he stressed the need for constant vigilance by the Organization in the face of increased insurgency and subversive pressures by Communists in the region.

Part of the text of the Prime Minister's speech follows:

"Looking back through these years since the Council first met in this city, we may not be entirely displeased with the Organization's efforts to fulfil its primary objective of helping the member states to deter overt aggression in this area. It has also served as a channel through which some material and technical support has been rendered to assist individual efforts in countering Communist subversion and insurgency.

"The Organization through time, as other things in life, has had its ups and downs. It is not, however, travelling in uncharted waters....

"SEATO has its critics, from without as well as from within. Those who entertain ill-will and exercise grand designs of expansionism against nations in this area doubtless want to see it crumble. Among ourselves. however, it is natural to differ at times since we are not bound together by coercion or the dictation of any one member. The Organization can only be what the members want it to be. Some look upon it as a useful framework through which members can either collectively or individually discharge their responsibilities in accordance with the Treaty. Others would wish it to be more effective and more efficient in the discharge of its functions.

'The Organization will continue to be a going concern...'

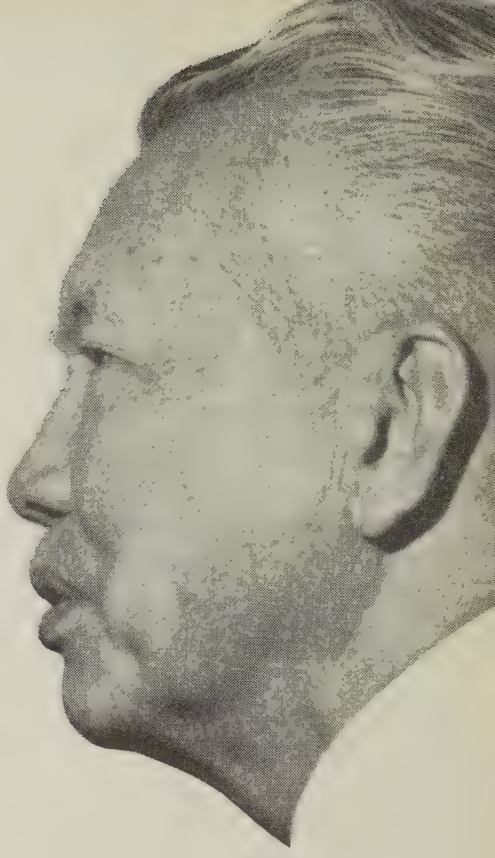
"But it is to the future that I urge your attention. The present threat to South-East Asia, hiding under the cloak of so-called 'wars of national liberation', is being intensified. To counter it effectively, we must respond with firm resolution and constructive foresight. It demands perseverance and unwavering determination on our part in dealing with the adversaries.

"At the same time, we wish to assure them that their peoples and ours can reap the benefits of peace and prosperity through peaceful co-existence and even co-operation for the betterment of all.

"As for the Organization itself, we can and should continue to make it a going concern. This is not for the sake of making it so. The Organization must be made to serve our varied but nevertheless mutual or complementary interests, whether it is the desire to preserve independence or the maintenance of a global balance of power..."

SPELL OUT ROLE ON RD OF ASIA

SECRETARY-GENERAL JESUS VARGAS



THE Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, in his address to delegates at the opening ceremony of the 14th Council of Ministers' Meeting spelt out in greater detail many of the reasons put forward by Thailand's Prime Minister, Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, advocating the need for a strong and vigilant Organization to continue its role as a deterrent to Communist subversion and insurgency in the region.

'...To scrap it would create a dangerous security vacuum'

Extracts from his speech follow:

"SEATO has never been so deeply involved in combatting Communist aggression in all its ugly forms. As a deterrent to Communist overt aggression, SEATO is far more effective now that it has developed and refined contingency plans for almost every conceivable eventuality. The armed forces of member countries have achieved, through constant staging of military exercises, a high degree of proficiency in working together as a team and of standardization in procedures, communications, equipment and other aspects of military activity.

"In Vietnam, a SEATO protocol State, the ARVN forces, assisted by the armed forces of five of our Members and of the Republic of Korea, one of Asia's staunchest anti-Communist countries, have succeeded to blunt and checkmate the enemy, to a point where a Communist military victory is now completely out of the question.

"In a previous meeting of the Council, I made the point that in respect of SEATO's work in helping counter the subtle and more insidious, but clearly more dangerous, form of Communist aggression, namely subversion and insurgency, we were already actually at war with the enemy. At no time in the past has SEATO been engaged so actively in helping counter-subversion, particularly in the Philippines and here in Thailand, where the Governments have each instituted well thought out forward-looking counter-measures.

"SEATO's role in this important field takes on even greater significance if one considers the almost inevitable likelihood that after Vietnam, the real threat to South-East Asia will consist, not of overt aggression of the nature and magnitude of Vietnam, but rather of intensified Communist subversion and support of incipient 'wars of national liberation'.

"Ironically, the validity of SEATO has never been so roundly challenged, and its effectiveness held in so serious a doubt by so many. Never has there been so widespread questioning about defence alliances and their usefulness, anywhere in the world.

We, the free peoples of Asia, and our allies are not entirely blameless, either, in this regard. I submit, Mr. Chairman, that much of the diminution in public regard and confidence in SEATO has, in a

way, been of our own making.

"Faced of late with the apparent tendency of their powerful friends and allies to look to the home front, some free Asians have taken to re-examining their foreign policies and Treaty commitments. As a consequence, they have also given some attention to suggestions of a possible scrapping of SEATO, even knowing deep in their minds that to do so would be to create a dangerous security vacuum which the enemy would lose no time to fill.

"Not a few Asians, and non-Asians as well, have suggested that perhaps, the other political groupings in the region, such as ASEAN and ASPAC, could be made to take on a military role, even knowing as they undoubtedly do that no one aggregation of nations can possibly cope with the imperatives of both regional development and collective security, each exacting in its own right, with reasonable assurance of success....

"Clearly, the proponents of this course of action know that under these circumstances, either aspect was bound dangerously to be neglected.

Moral support not enough

"There are also those who would have an all-Asian alliance supplant our Organization. Those who do so lose sight of the fact that no security alliance can hope to succeed without the active participation of an established world power, of which, as we all know, no Asian country is, at the present time. Mere moral support from a world power, necessarily devoid of the guarantees of direct military action by that power whenever and wherever necessary—or, in the event of overt enemy aggression, instantaneous retaliation—would be incompatible with the nature of the threat; it would be irresponsive to the imperatives of defence.

"The idea of an all-Asian alliance loses sight, similarly, of the glaring fact that among the more potentially capable allies in an all-Asian set-up are countries which are immovably inhibited either by their Constitution or by their unbending neutralist policies, from assuming an effective military role. To my mind, an all-Asian security arrangement could provide at best only token security.

"I do not mean to belittle the capacity and the willingness of free Asians to take on increasingly larger security responsibilities. By all means, let Asians bear the principal burden of their defence; but let them do so in direct collaboration with the powers of the Free World.

"The action or inaction of some of our Members, including the more powerful ones, too, has been grossly misunderstood, unfortunately at the expense of the SEATO image. For instance, our critics have made much of the British military withdrawal from the Area, despite the firm announcement made by the British Government at the time the decision was made, that the United Kingdom was determined to continue honouring her commitments to her allies in SEATO and the Commonwealth. Perhaps the rationale behind the decision to withdraw was never really adequately made clear; or if it was, it was not fully understood.

"SEATO's detractors have made considerable mileage as well of the absence, at one time, of a definitive American policy *vis-a-vis* this sensitive part of the world. It was only to be expected that the free peoples of the area, who had learned to look up to the United States as the leader of the Free World, and as one of their stronger allies in SEATO for much of their defence, despaired impatiently and became genuinely, although perhaps erroneously, apprehensive of an American withdrawal from South-East Asia.

"Personally, I have yet to see a United States Administration which is prepared to say that it is less in the interest of the American people than it is the Asians', that the Communists are held in effective check in Asia; I have yet to see an American President who is prepared to take the view that American presence, power and influence are not necessary in containing Communist aggression in South-East Asia.

Question of resources

Frankly speaking, I believe, Mr. Chairman, that in this respect—in failing promptly to reassure the great masses of free Asians where they entertained certain doubts and apprehensions; in failing to explain our moves where those moves lent themselves to misinterpretation and gave genesis to wild speculation —we have dealt our own image a serious blow!

"Quite apart from the need to attune SEATO's image with its increasingly effective role in containign Communist aggression and subversion, is the question of resources. There is obviously a requirement to reconcile the demands of development with the demands of security, which conflict most of the time. The resources which free nations allocate to security are a withdrawal from the resources that would go into development. I must caution, however, that in attempting to strike a balance, we should not summarily place a price-tag on security...."

Always a step ahead of the Red threat

THE 30th Conference of the SEATO Military Advisers opened in Bangkok last month under the chairmanship of Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Military Adviser for Thailand and Chief of Staff, Supreme Command, Royal Thai Armed Forces.

A ceremony was held to mark the opening of the Conference at the SEATO Headquarters Building. The flags of member countries and that of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization were unfurled.

Among those attending the ceremony were the Military Adivisers; the Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieutenant-General Jesus Vargas; and the Chief, Military Planning Office, Major General Autrey J. Maroun.

The conference discussed the Communist threat to the Treaty Area and the actions necessary for its defence. The work of the SEATO Military Planning Office was also reviewed and updated during the meeting.

Military Advisers attending the Conference were General Sir John Wilton, KBE, CB, DSO, Chairman of the Australian Chiefs of Staff Committee; Lieutenant General Sir Leonard Thornton, KCB, CBE, Chief of the New Zealand Defence Staff; General Manuel T. Yan, AFP, Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines; Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Chief of Staff, Supreme Command, Royal Thai Armed Forces; Admiral Sir Peter Hill-Norton, KCB, United Kingdom Commander-in-Chief Far East; Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., USN, United States Commander-in-Chief Pacific; and Captain Ikramul Haq Malik, PN, SEATO Military Adviser's Representative, Pakistan (observer).

MILITARY ADVISERS HOLD 30th MEETING IN BANGKO

Communique

The thirtieth conference of the Military Advisers of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization under the Chairmanship of Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Military Adviser for Thailand, ended in Bangkok today (May, 17).

The Military Advisers emphasized again the importance of SEATO as a bulwark against the continuing Communist threat in South-East Asia. They stressed the need to continue to improve the military effectiveness of the member States to counter widening and intensifying Communist subversion, insurgency and open aggression.

The Conference heard an illuminating address by the Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieutenant-General Jesus Vargas, on the general political situation in the Treaty Area.

The Secretary-General emphasized that Communist insurgency and subversion in the free countries of South-East Asia must be expected to continue no matter what the results of the Paris Peace Talks. In discussing the Vietnam conflict he said that during a recent visit to South Vietnam he had found the political and military situation far more encouraging than one or two years ago. President Thieu's initiative in calling for a broadly based aggregation of Nationalist Parties supporting the Government was a most encouraging development.

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Maj. Gen. Autrey J. Maroun, Chief, MPO, escorting Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Chairman of the conference and Military Adviser for Thailand.

The Military Adviser for Thailand, Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, briefed the Conference on the Communist insurgency in Thailand and the combined military and civic action undertaken by the Royal Thai Government to counter it. He said that there was increased evidence of external assistance to the Communist terrorists who operate in Thailand. The Thai Military Adviser warned that the present situation in Laos warranted close scrutiny because that was the area of greatest potential threat to Thailand at this time. The Conference noted his statement that the steps being taken in Thailand by the Royal Thai Government were meeting with success, and that this was evident from the recent successful elections and the inability of the Communist terrorists to launch any sizeable attacks.

In his presentation Admiral John S. McCain, Jr, United States Military Adviser, stressed the vital importance of SEATO in meeting the Communist threat in the South-East Asia region. He then reviewed progress in South Vietnam, noting that the Free World Forces had successfully countered the enemy's latest offensive which began on February 23. The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army had been defeated in every significant engagement and had sustained heavy casualties.

Admiral McCain described the continuing improvement of the South Vietnamese Forces, their assumption of a steadily expanding share of combat operations, and the progress achieved in pacification. The Military Advisers took note of the progress being made by the Free World Forces in Vietnam.

The Conference received a report from the Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office, Major General Autrey J. Maroun, on the progress achieved in improving and updating SEATO Military plans since the last meeting. The Military Advisers reviewed these plans in the light of the current threat.

They noted with approval that six Member Nations would participate in SEATO Exercise 'SEA SPIRIT' scheduled for 22 May—6 June 1969. They considered that the Exercise—the 36th to be held—would further enhance the readiness of SEATO forces to act against overt Communist aggression in the Treaty Area.

It was agreed to hold the next Military Advisers' Meeting in Bangkok in October 1969.

SIGNING ALONG THE DOTTED LINE...

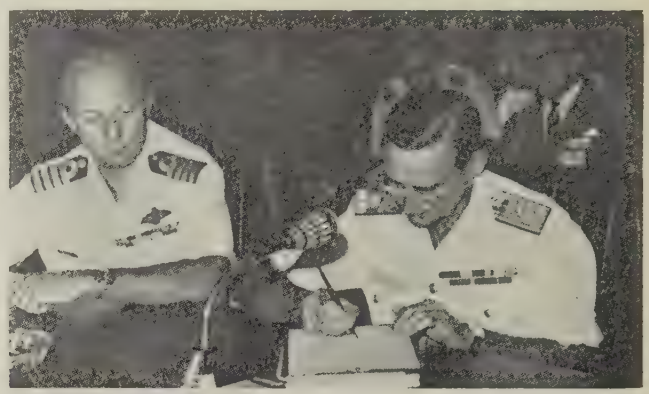
THE final session of the SEATO Military Advisers 30th Meeting was the signing ceremony. The Advisers are pictured here signing the final report of the conference. Since the Pakistan Military Adviser was represented at the Conference by his Representative at the SEATO Military Planning Office, Captain I.H. Malik, as an Observer, Pakistan did not sign the report, although Captain Malik attended all the sessions.

UNITED STATES ⬇

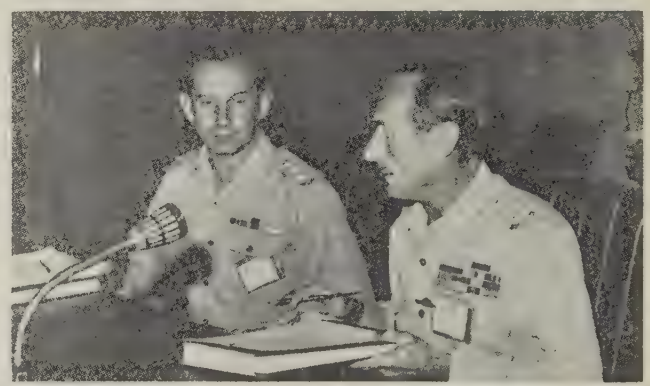
THAILAND ⬇

NEW ZEALAND ⬇

PHILIPPINES ⬆



UNITED KINGDOM ⬆



AUSTRALIA ⬆

PAKISTAN ⬆

EXERCISE 'SEA SPIRIT'

THE South-East Asia Treaty Oganization's 36th partnership exercise, code-named "Sea Spirit", was launched in the Philippines on May 26, when more than 40 warships began weaving a zig-zag South Westerly course across the South China Sea on a massive convoy escort operation to the Gulf of Thailand, 1,300 miles away.

The thousands of personnel of the armed forces of six member nations participating little realised that within a few days fate was to take a cruel hand in bringing to an abrupt halt under tragic circumstances the maritime phase of these extensive manoeuvres: 650 miles

out of Manila on a calm night the 20,000-ton Australian aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne, Flagship of the fleet, split in two the U.S. destroyer Frank E. Evans in a head-on collision that caused the loss of 74 lives.

The Exercise was set in a hypothetical situation cast in South-East Asia which provided for the operational deployment of SEATO land, sea and air forces.

The six member nations participating were Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, the Philippines, the United States and the United Kingdom.

'Sea Spirit' was formulated to:

- Provide combined training of assigned SEATO forces in the planning and execution of a maritime operation;
- Provide combined training of assigned SEATO forces in planning and exercising a Base Area Command organization;
- Improve existing SEATO maritime tactice, and techniques;
- Further develop close working relationships and understanding among member nations.

The maritime phase provided for the marshalling of a convoy in the Philippines area and its escort to the Gulf of Thailand.

The fleet, spearheaded by the aircraft carriers USS Kearsarge (United states) and HMAS Melbourne (Australia), arrived in Manila Bay (Philippines) before the Exercise was opened by its director, Rear Admiral William T. Rapp, USN.

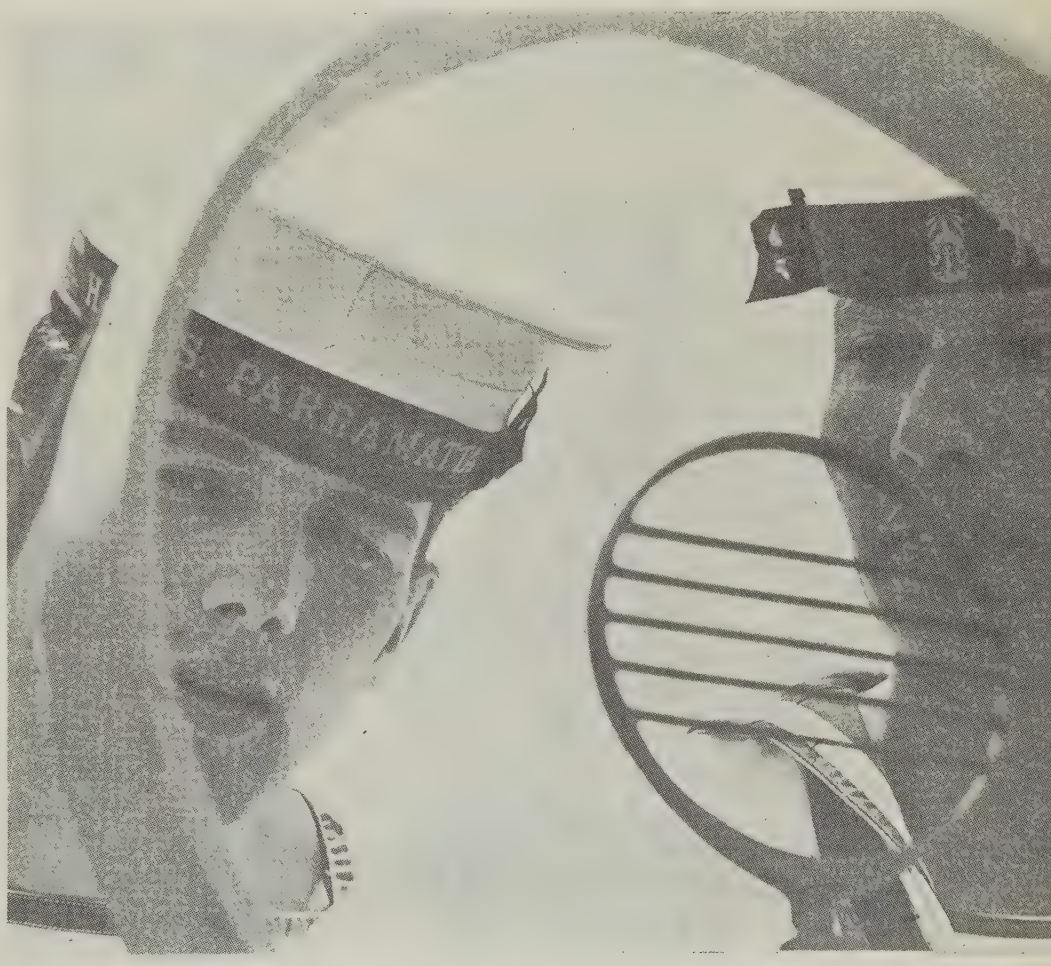
After a four-day warm-up period of manoeuvres off Manila, the six-nation fleet set sail on the 1,300-mile voyage.

During this phase the aggressor role was taken by a submarine pack—USS Bugara, USS Spinax and HMS Onslaught. British and Filipino aircraft also formed into an "enemy" force.

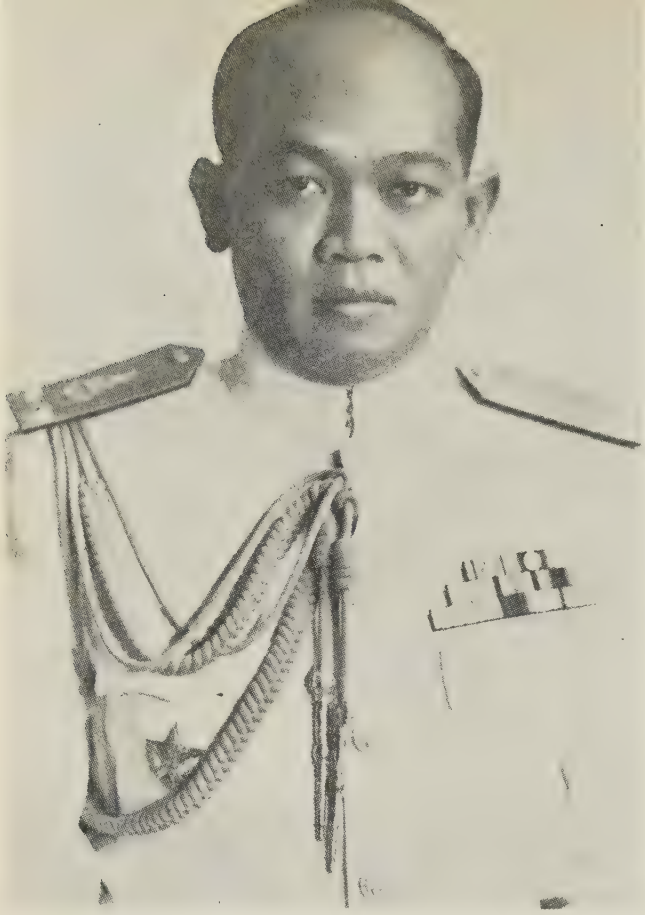
Allied air power support—both land and sea-based—was provided for the fleet by Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

For four days, the submarines harassed the convoy, but their efforts to penetrate a screen of escorts, disrupt the fleet and sink the vital oilers, RFA Tidereach (United Kingdom) and HMAS Supply (Australia) were unsuccessful.

Allied counter-submarine measures included the



Royal Thai Navy Petty Officer Charden Cheao Charl (right), of HMTS Tachin and Ord. QMG Allen Cattle of the Royal Australian Navy's H.M.A.S. Parramatta examine a gunsight aboard HMTS Tachin in Manila Bay, Philippines, before the start of Exercise 'Sea Spirit'.



Pictured above is Rear Admiral Pravit Bodhiphala, Royal Thai Navy, one of the deputy directors of Exercise 'Sea Spirit',

Commenting on the exercise Admiral Pravit said: "We need not only powerful forces, but also unity and ability to work together if we are to prevail. 'Sea Spirit' has demonstrated our effectiveness and the strength of SEATO. It proved our ability to work together to maintain that strength."

use of escorting surface units and anti-submarine aeroplanes, aided by land-based, long-range maritime aircraft.

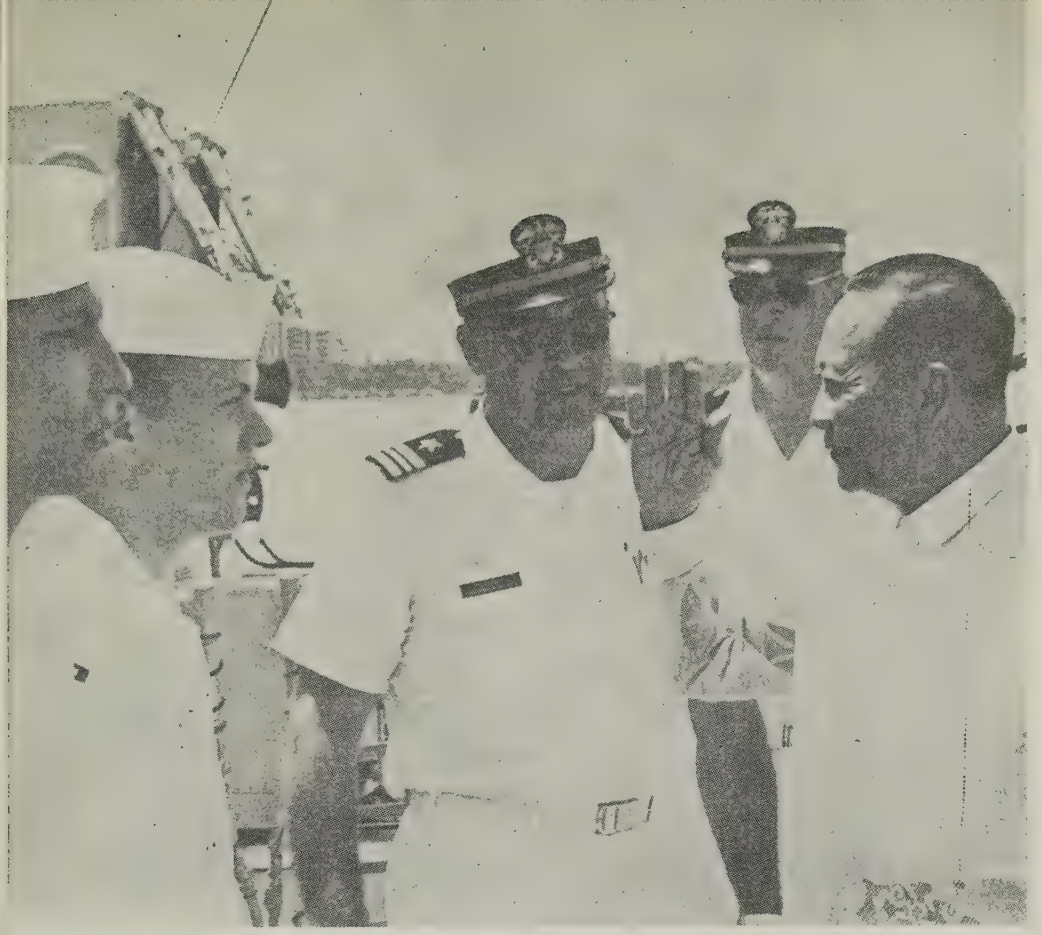
Several confirmed and probable submarine "kills" were reported. In one contact, the United Kingdom destroyer escort, HMS Danae, commanded by Captain D.E.P. George, RN, mortared a submarine within minutes of the sighting.

It was shortly after this, while the convoy was sailing at night under 'black-out' wartime conditions that the Exercise was brought to a tragic and dramatic halt. All was proceeding to schedule in the early hours of June 3 when without warning, what could have been a simulated tactical manoeuvre was transformed into sudden stark and tragic reality: the American destroyer, USS Frank E. Evans, was involved in a virtual head-on collision with the 20,000-ton aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne. The destroyer was literally sliced in two and the forward section sank within minutes with the loss of 74 lives. The after-section was kept afloat by the Melbourne while other ships of the fleet raced to the scene and commenced a widespread search for survivors which continued unremittingly for 72 hours. Later, the Melbourne, her bows badly holed above and below the water-line, limped at a steady 8 knots towards Singapore.

Although this phase of the Exercise had to be abandoned with warships reverting to their national commands, minesweepers from Thailand, Australia the UK and the US continued undeterred their role of clearing access routes into Sattahip port in Thailand. Moreover, the land exercise at Sattahip embracing logistic and administrative supporting forces continued according to schedule.

In the picture (right), the Exercise Director, Rear Admiral William T. Rapp, United States, discusses the Base Area Command Post Exercise with Brigadier R.R. Colwill, Australia, (centre) at the land element Headquarters at Sattahip, Thailand.

On the left is the Exercise Chief-of-Staff, Captain H.B. Lansden, United States.



The Vice-President of the Philipines, Fernando Lopez, in the absence of the President, is pictured above greeting officers and crewmen aboard the American destroyer USS Bronstein during the opening ceremony of Exercise 'Sea Spirit' in Manila.

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The simulated convoys which the SEATO exercise personnel at Sattahip were responsible for receiving, unloading and redistributing of their cargoes, arrived as scheduled.

This not only provided combined training of assigned SEATO personnel in the planning and operation of a Base Area Command organization but also exercised the naval control of shipping in the Thailand area. The arrival of three Naval Controllers from the Philippines ensured that this phase was fully tested.

Positive results

Brigadier K.R. Colwill, Australia, one of the two Deputy Exercise Directors, expressed satisfaction with the land phases of the Exercise. "We are receiving positive results in answer to some important problems on procedures," he said.

The six SEATO Member Nations participating in the Exercise were all represented at Sattahip.

Visiting Sattahip, the Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office, Major General Autrey J. Maroun, said that he was most impressed with the way the Exercise was progressing and with the enthusiasm with which participants were solving exercise problems. "This will prove most beneficial for the further developments of SEATO logistic planning," he said.

Other visitors were Vice Admiral Kawee Singha, Chief of Staff, Royal Thai Fleet, and Vice-Admiral Chertchai Thomya, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Fleet. They inspected the Naval Control of Shipping aspect with Rear Admiral Pravit Bodhiphala, Royal Thai Navy, the other Deputy Director for Exercise 'Sea Spirit'.

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A member of the crew of HMAS Melbourne is pictured below about to fire a lead line across to one of the American escorting destroyers as she comes alongside for refuelling and taking on stores.

EXERCISE

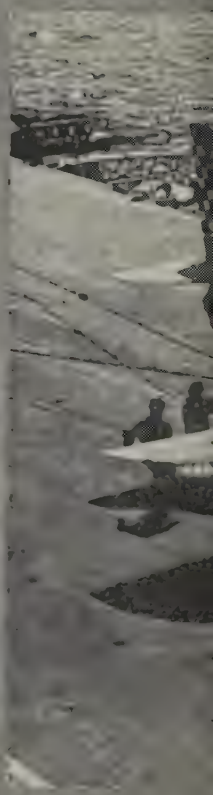
THE TOUCH-DOWN...

...STEP

Having received clearance to land, a Royal Australian Navy Skyhawk (above) approaches the flight deck of HMAS Melbourne. In the picture on the right the aircraft has successfully engaged No. 2 Wire which will bring it to a halt in only 200 feet or so.

Meantime, the flight deck crew can be seen in the bottom left racing to be in position to release the wire as soon as the aircraft stops. Pictured on the extreme right the flight deck crew having reached the now halted Skyhawk prepare to release the wire. From the moment the aircraft engages the wire until it is released takes about five seconds.

Pictured below is the United States Navy Tanker, USS Ponchatoula, refuelling the American destroyer, USS Everett F. Larson. During a normal day the tanker would refuel about 6 ships from the convoy ranging from destroyers up to aircraft carriers.



SEA SPIRIT'

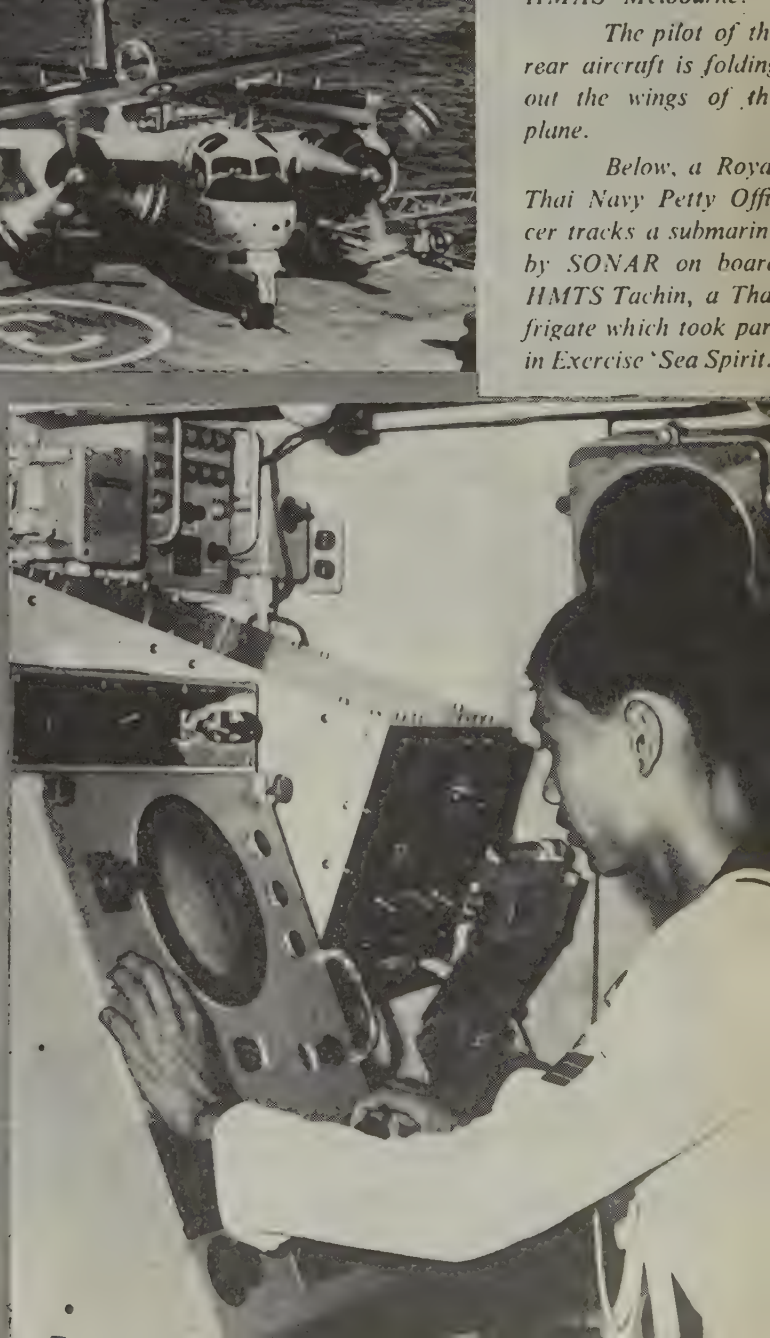
IN FOCUS

Two tracke anti-submarine warfar aircraft warm their en gines prior to being catapulted fron HMAS Melbourne.

The pilot of th rear aircraft is folding out the wings of th plane.

Below, a Roya Thai Navy Petty Offi cer tracks a submarin by SONAR on boar HMTS Tachin, a Tha frigate which took par in Exercise 'Sea Spirit.

...BY STEP



'Sea Spirit' — the summing up

Rear Admiral William T. Rapp, the Director of Exercise 'Sea Spirit', discusses various aspects of the manoeuvres with the Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas at SEATO Headquarters.

— BY THE EXERCISE DIRECTOR

THE grim picture on the opposite page of mangled metal that was once the bows of the Australian aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne, may at first sight appear to be a tragic epitaph which contradicts the remarks made below by the Exercise Director, Rear Admiral William T. Rapp, in his final summing up of Exercise 'Sea Spirit.'

Yet when logic and reason prevail it becomes irrevocably clear that many of the lessons learned in this exercise: the close working relationships that existed and the spirit of comradeship and co-operation that evolved arose partly because of—as well as in spite of—the tragic loss of 74 lives that resulted from the collision between the Melbourne and the American destroyer, USS Frank E. Evans.

The facts speak for themselves—if we let them—in the words of Admiral Rapp which follow:

"Despite the need to terminate the real convoy transit phase in SEATO Exercise 'Sea Spirit' the majority of its objectives were achieved.

"Prior to the tragic accident on June 3 much combined training of assigned SEATO forces in the planning and execution of maritime operations had been successfully carried out. Even after June 3 the mine-clearing aspects of the maritime phase had gone on in the Thailand Naval Area with participation by Thai, Australian, United Kingdom and United States ships. Also the Naval Control of shipping organization in Thailand had been able to complete its task."

Admiral Rapp added that the land-based aspects of the Exercise in the Sattahip area, because of its unique employment of all staff components in a Command Post environment, was able to fully develop desired inter-action with the simulated maritime elements. "As a result the objectives of this phase of SEATO Exercise 'Sea Spirit' were very successfully fulfilled," he said.

He paid tribute to all those who had participated in the Exercise. He said that the officers and men from Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States had further developed the close working relationships and understanding between Member Nations and proved their capability to work together as a viable force.

"I believe" he said, "that Exercise 'Sea Spirit' highlights the credibility of SEATO in demonstrating that the participating nations have the will and capability to work together as a SEATO force to meet any would-be aggressor."

Like the gaping jaws of a giant shark the blackened, twisted metal of the damaged bows of HMAS Melbourne form a strange silhouette against a calm sea following her collision with the American destroyer USS Frank E. Evans which resulted in the loss of 74 lives.

The destroyer was sliced in two, the bow section sinking within minutes. The Melbourne kept the aft section afloat pending the arrival of salvage ships which took her in tow. The Australian carrier later headed for Singapore. In the background, standing by, is the only other carrier to participate in the Exercise, the USS Kearsarge.

Roll of Honour

The names of the 74 Americans who lost their lives as a result of the collision between the Australian aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne, and the destroyer, USS Frank E. Evans, during Exercise 'Sea Spirit', are listed below:

Tever, Jon M.
Armstrong, Alan H.
Brandon, Robert G.
Ogawa, Gregory K.
Pattee, Dwight S.
Norton, John T.
Cannington, Charles W.
Hess, Edward P.
King, Willie L.
Banker, James R.
Botto, Andrew J.
Box, Thomas B.
Bradley, James F.
Brown, Harris M.
Brown, William D.
Carlson, Christopher J.
Clawson, Michel K.
Clute, Benny V.
Cmeyla, James R.
Cool, Larry W.
Corcoran, Patrick M.
Craig, Joe E.
Davis, James N.
Deal, Leon L.
Dykes, James F.
Earpey, Raymond J.
Espinosa, Steven F.
Fagan, Stephen D.
Fields, William D.
Flummer, Alan C.
Frye, Henry K.
Garcia, Francis J.
Gardner, Melvin H.
Gearhart, Donald H.
Glennon, Patrick G.
Gonzales, Joe L.
Gracely, Larry A.
Grissom, Devere R. (Junior)
Glines Kenneth W.
Henderson, Terry L.
Hodgson, Garry B.
Jonhston, Dennis R.
Kerr, James W.
Laliberte, George J.
Lebrun, Ray P.
Lehman, Eugene F.
Lyons, Isaac N.
Meister, Douglas R.
Melendrez, Andrew M.
Messier, Frederic O.
Miller, Timothy L.
Orlinkowski, Michael
Orpurt, Linden R.
Pennepl, Craig A.
Pickett, Jerome N.
Preston, Harl F (Junior)
Rilly Lawrence J.
Rikal, Victor T.
Ruyer, Steven A.
Sage, Gacy L.
Sage, Gregory A.
Sage, Kelly J.
Sauvey, John A.
Seln Rort J.
Smith, Gerald N.
Smith, Thruston P. (Junior)
Spray, John R.
Tallon, Thomas F.
Thibodeau, Ronald A.
Thomas, Jon W.
Tolar, John T.
Vigue, Gary J.
Warnock, Con W.
West, Henry D.

Sincerity, simplicity set tone of memorial service

DIPLOMATS and representatives of the Armed Forces of SEATO member nations, totalling more than 400 people in all, attended the special memorial service held at Bangkok's International Church on June 9 for the 74 American sailors who lost their lives during SEATO Exercise 'Sea Spirit'.

Participating in the simple, though impressive, service were clergy of four denominations; Lt. Col. James R. Hayes, U.S. Army Chaplain; Capt. Lloyd S. Hindman, U.S. Naval Reserve Chaplain, *(pictured above)*, the Revs. Peter Broadbent, and Gerald F. Gibbons.

Eulogies were read during the service by the New Zealand Ambassador, Mr. Ian Stewart, as current Chairman for the month of the SEATO Council Representatives, and by the Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieut Gen. Jesus Vargas.

Gen. Vargas said that the men who perished so fatefully in pursuit of a clear mission of peace and freedom did not hold in the palms of their hands the fate and destiny of men and nations.

"They lived simple and humble lives, resolved nevertheless to win the peace and "to ensure freedom for all to enjoy, no matter the price.

"It was precisely because of their resolute devotion to duty, that death claimed them..."

It would seem strange, Gen Vargas added, that, despite awareness of the inherent risks in preparing for war in order to maintain the peace people should have up to this time very little understanding of the providential aim which allowed a pall of gloom to befall an undertaking so well-motivated as 'Sea Spirit,' and to fall upon an alliance designed precisely to protect the peace, and ensure harmony and Godliness among mankind.

"Indeed, for sometime", he added, "for want of a fuller understanding of the wisdom and the ways of Divine Providence, we can perhaps only indulge in full consciousness of the particular significance to us of reverses such as the present one, and the loss which we must forever suffer in the death of many of the crew of the Evans. For all that they stood for, we can indulge likewise in a keen aspiration for some little participation in such a bestowal of selflessness and devotion as were the simple lives and careers of these men.

Without doubt, SEATO, and therefore the Free World, suffered no little setback in the tragedy of the Evans, said Gen. Vargas. "But as the gallant men who perished with it would have us do, we must forge ahead. With the memory of their lives and careers helping to fire the beacons that guide us, our ships must sail on, our planes fly on, and our soldiers plod on, in eternal vigilance over peace and freedom. To do less would be to fail them as well the cause of free men everywhere."

For as long as men live, love and worship in freedom, he said, so long would they need to defend that freedom whenever and wherever it was threatened. And as someone so aptly asked, 'was there anything real ever gained without sacrifice of some kind?'

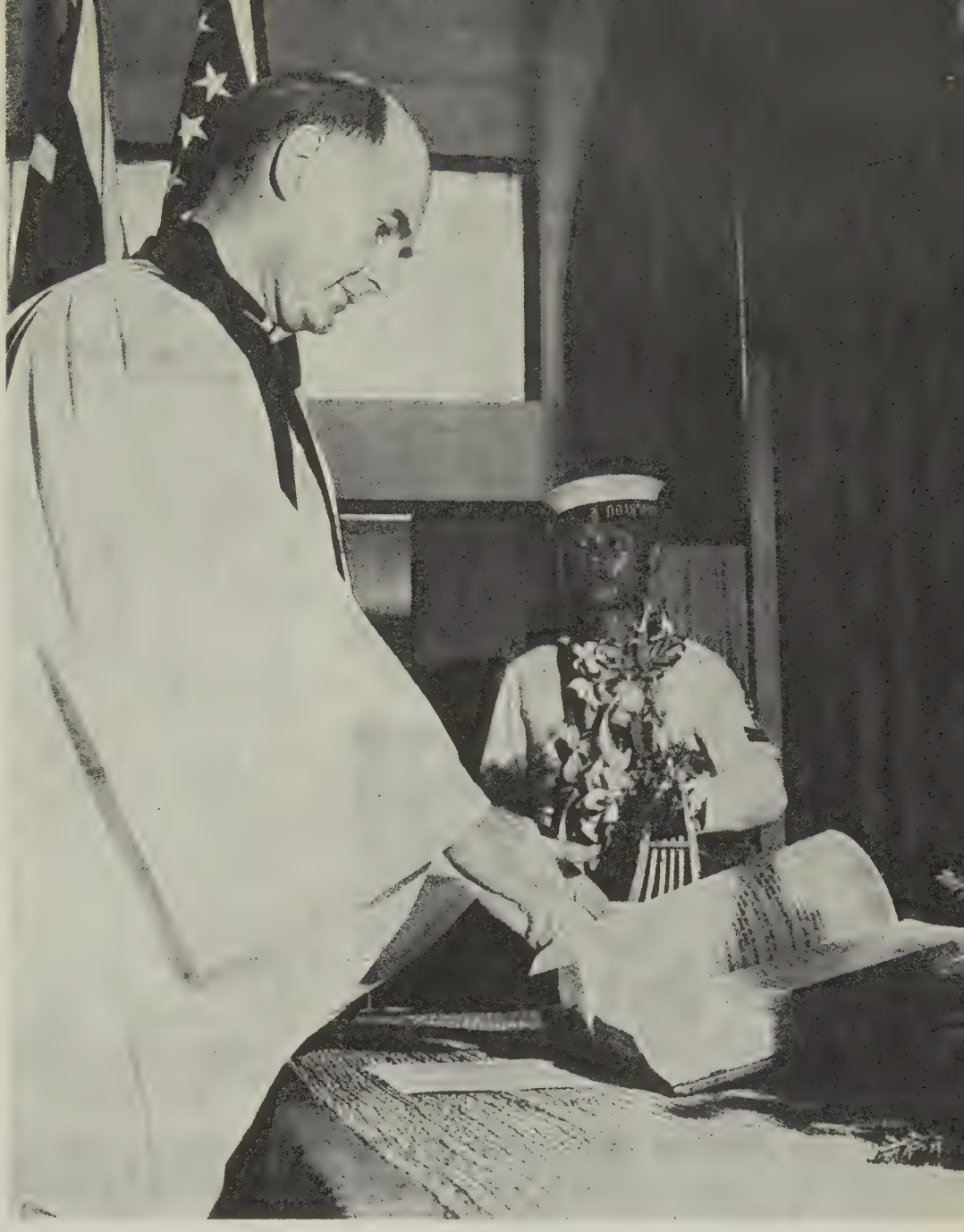
"Reverently and dolefully—but gratefully and proudly—we salute these men: the leaders, the led; the strong, the weak; the brave, the fearful; patriots all, in their own right," Gen. Vargas concluded.

Mr. Stewart in his eulogy said that although the men who died did not give up their lives on the battlefield, their sacrifice was no less real and their purpose no less noble.

"It has been said that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. But those lofty words conceal the harshness of reality. The truth is that the price demanded is often higher," Mr. Stewart pointed out.

Those who belonged to SEATO felt the tragedy as a personal loss. "Although the ships and aircraft of many nations took part, or were involved in Exercise 'Sea Spirit', we regarded them—no matter what flag

This study in hats with their braid and emblems is a symbolic reminder that seniority has no meaning in death. All, from the highest ranking officers to the most humble seamen, came to pay their last respects at the special memorial service in Bangkok to the 74 men who died during Exercise 'Sea Spirit'.



The Rev Peter Broadbent of Bangkok's Christ Church prepares for the memorial service in honour of the men who lost their lives during SEATO Exercise 'Sea Spirit'. A bugler of the Royal Thai Navy, who sounded the Last Post and Reveille, stands in the background.

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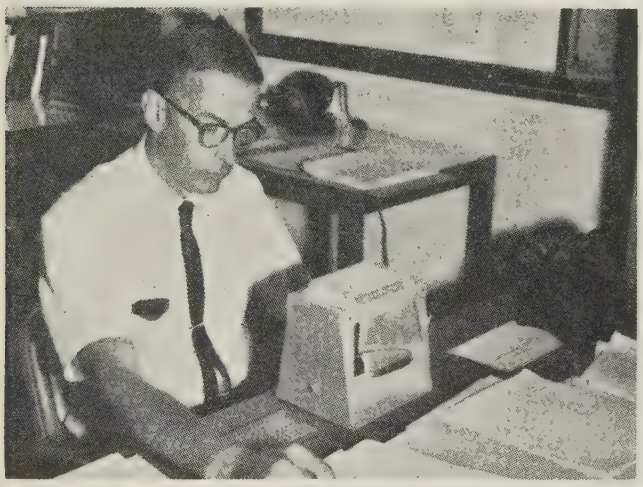
they flew or what uniform they wore—as *our* ships and *our* aircraft and, most importantly, as *our* men. We mourn their loss as members of a large family", he said.

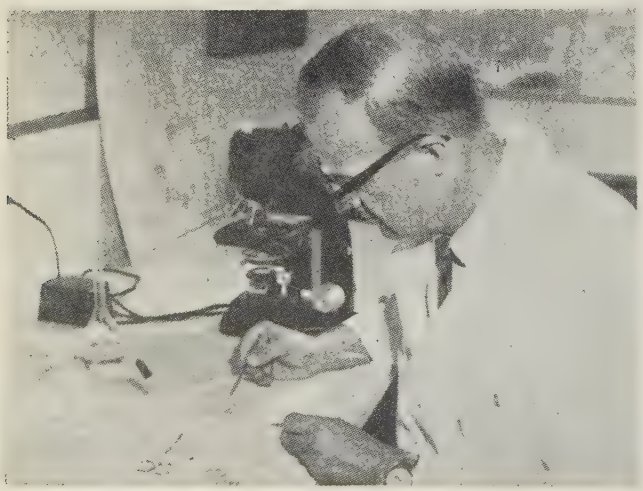
The world had become anaesthetised to some extent to large tragedies. The loss of an airliner with its passengers and crew is accepted today as one of the hazards of aviation. "Why then does this accident touch us so deeply?" he asked. "I think it is because men such as those who formed the crew of the Evans were among the finest their country has to offer. They represent a great country's pride and its hope for the future. We can never become indifferent to such sacrifices."

To the ancient world of Greece and Rome, Mr. Stewart said that such tragedy would have been seen as the hand of Fate, cruel and capricious, severing in an instant the threads of many young lives.

"To those who see design and purpose in the seeming chances of human existence, their loss will be a reminder of the transitory nature of life, and the importance of the quality of that life as distinct from its temporal duration.

"Their loss too, reminds us that the fighting services constantly and cheerfully accept hazards as part of their daily work." While some young people around the world were seeking to tear down the community in which they are placed, others, such as those on the Evans, helped to preserve and defend, said Mr. Stewart. "Despite dangers and hardships, men continue to accept the challenge. Their's is, I suggest, the better part. Some day, one hopes, swords will be beaten into ploughshares. When that day comes, it will be because of men, like those on the Evans who were prepared to put their lives in the balance," Mr. Stewart said.





DUAL ROLE FOR 3 TOP SEATO MEDICAL SCIENTISTS

THREE senior members of the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory in Bangkok have been appointed to serve also at Thailand's University of Medical Sciences.

They are Lt. Col. Thomas J. Smith, (top left) Chief of the SEATO Lab's Department of Virology, who has been appointed Visiting Associate Professor of Microbiology in the Faculties of Public Health and Graduate Studies; Major Lloyd C. Olson, (centre) Virologist at the SEATO Lab, appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of Microbiology; and Dr. Douglas J. Gould, (bottom) Chief of the Department of Medical Entomology, appointed Visiting Associate Professor of Entomology. Dr. Gould has been in Thailand since July 1964, Major Olson since August 1967, and Lt. Col. Smith since July 1968.

In addition to Dr. Gould's latest appointment, he was recently invited to take part in a conference on malaria held in May at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington, D.C.

"Research on malaria and anopheline mosquitoes" was the subject of the conference, which was sponsored by the US Army Medical Research and Development Command. Malariologists from several countries participated including the United Kingdom, Italy and France.

The SEATO Medical Research Laboratory has been devoting a large part of its efforts to the study of the many aspects of the malaria problem, working in close collaboration with the Thai health authorities.

Dr. Gould has been responsible for co-ordinating those projects whose aim is to throw more light on the vectors themselves: the anopheline mosquitoes, their breeding sites, feeding habits, life span, mating characteristics and, in particular, their sensitivity or resistance to insecticides.

The SEATO Medical Research Laboratory was established in 1960 as part of the over-all programme designed to help improve the standard of living of the people in this area.

Owing to the expansion of the laboratory's work into many fields of research the staff has now moved into a new seven-storey premises equipped with the most up-to-date facilities and equipment.

Some of the members of the medical team are pictured here with the Secretary-General, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, at SEATO Headquarters, before the start of the conference.

Military planning has its medical side, too

SIXTY-TWO senior medical officers from Australia, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States attended the third meeting of the SEATO Military Medical Committee which was opened early this month by Major General Autrey J. Maroun, Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office at SEATO Headquarters. The Conference lasted for three days.

"For the first time a medical information service exists between the SEATO nations," said General Maroun in his opening address. "Through the SEATO Military Planning Office, Member Nations are exchanging fully their experiences gained in public health, preventive medicine, war surgery, and a host of other important military medical topics."

Brigadier General Filart of the Philippines chaired the meeting. Other senior delegates were Air Vice Marshal Trudinger (Australia), Major General Thip Pholpoke (Thailand), Major General Smart (United Kingdom), Rear Admiral Cowan (United States) and Col. Hocson (Philippines).

Lieut. Col. K.J.A. Fleming (Australia), the SEATO Medieal Staff Officer, co-ordinated the Conference.

Officers from the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory also attended the Conference as observers. They gave a briefing on the results of research activities being carried out by the Laboratory. Delegates also received a briefing from a United States Medical Team from Vietnam.

During the meeting a wide range of medical matters relating to the operation of SEATO Forces in the Treaty Area was discussed.

Chief of the MPO, Maj. Gen. Autrey J. Maroun, with delegates to the Medical Conference. From left: Air Vice-Marshal L.R. Trudinger (Australia); Rear Admiral J.S. Cowan (US); Chairman, Brig. Gen. Enrique S. Filart (Philippines); Conference Co-ordinator, Lt. Col. K. Fleming (Australia); Gen. Maroun; Col. Augusto E. Hocson (Philippines); Maj. Gen. R.A. Smart (UK); and Maj. Gen. Thip Pholpoke (Thailand).

...Meeting the Press

THE Prime Minister, of New Zealand, the Rt. Hon. Keith Holyoake, is pictured here being interviewed by a Thai political correspondent, Mrs. Panintra Pak-Kasem of the Siam Times, following the South-East Asia Treaty Organization Council Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand (May 20-21).

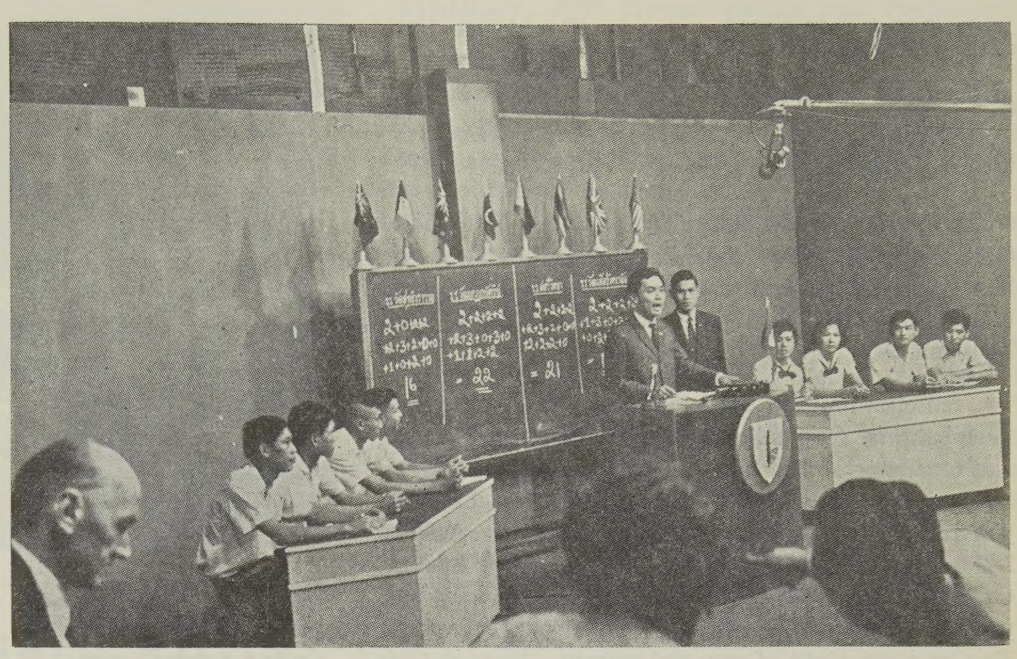
But in a way it was an interview with a difference, for Mrs. Panintra was recently in New Zealand for 6 months observing newspaper practice under a Colombo Plan scholarship. While in New Zealand she was attached at different times to the New Zealand Herald, Evening Post and Nelson Mail.

Vargas says 'well done' to SEATO Scholars

Congratulations for SEATO Scholars from Lt. Gen. Jesus Vargas, SEATO Secretary-General to: Miss Milagros Andama of the Philippines, pictured here showing a copy of the thesis which has earned her a master's degree in Agricultural Extension from Kasetsart University in Bangkok where she has been studying on a SEATO post-graduate scholarship course since June 1967. Also to Mr. Nipon Kinawong (next to Miss Andama) and Mr. Prasert Chejtapun of Thailand, both recent grantees of SEATO post-garduate scholarships and both going to the University of the Philippines for further study.

Mr. Nipon, will be working for his M.A. in Psychology, while Mr. Prasert, hopes to obtain his M.A. in Education.

PRIZES FOR SEATO QUIZ WINNERS



SEATO's nation-wide Television Quiz programmes in Thailand and the Philippines continue to draw large audiences with more and more schools clamouring to participate in the series.

The finals of the latest series in the Bangkok region were televised recently over TTV Channel 4.

Kriengsak Sae-Eah and Subhachai Sae-Toh of Wat Makutkasat School were the two lucky winners of 500 baht. Runners up were Somying Phoosatorn and Subabhon Wongkongkhathep of Satriwitaya School who received 250 baht each.

The picture shows competing teams, Quizmaster, scorekeeper, and in left foreground Mr. Melvin Taylor, SEATO Deputy Director of Public Information, who presented the prizes.

This series of the SEATO Quiz started in January with 16 school teams competing. Next month SEATO plans to conduct a new series in Bangkok, Haadyai, Surathani, Khonkhaen and Lampang.

54 officers attend SEATO course

Fifty-four military officers from Australia, Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States attended the second SEATO Orientation Course for 1969 lasting from 9-19 June.

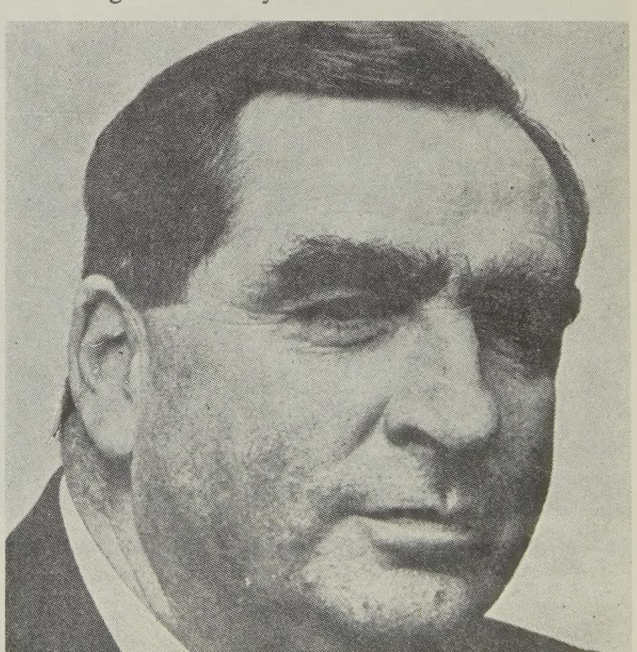
The SEATO Military Planning Office runs three Orientation Courses annually. They are designed to provide military officers from Member Nations with an opportunity to study in depth SEATO military activities in the Treaty Area and to familiarize themselves with the region, its terrain and military facilities.

After briefings at SEATO Headquarters the course began a five-day tour of Thailand.

U.K. Defence Minister meets Vargas

Britain's Minister of Defence, Mr. Denis Healey, held discussions with the Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, at SEATO Headquarters, during a brief visit to Bangkok this month en-route home from the Five Power Commonwealth talks in Canberra on defence matters.

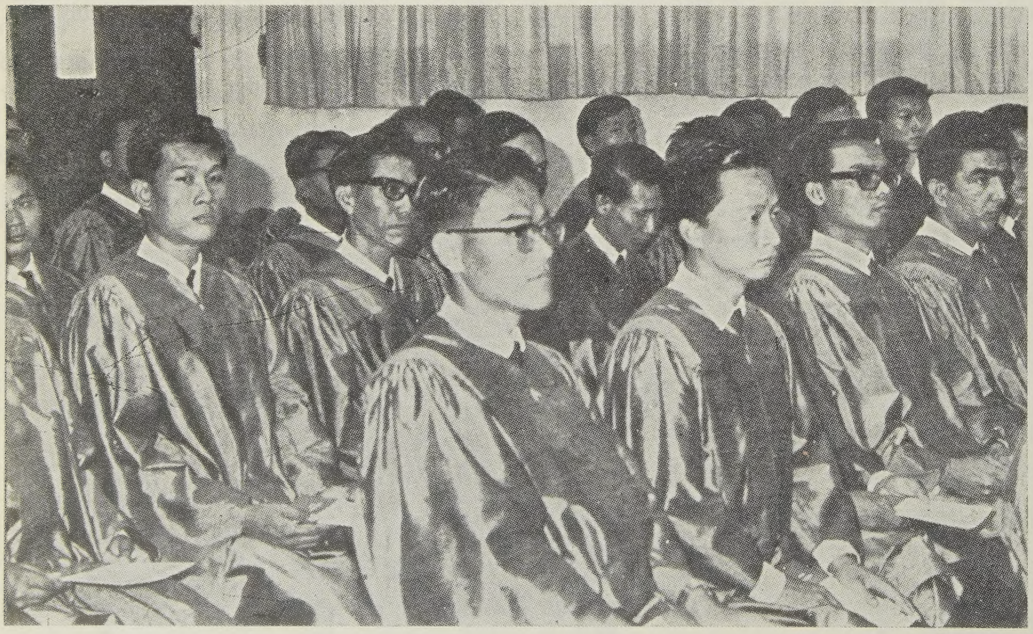
While in Bangkok Mr. Healey also held talks with the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Thanom Kittikachorn, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Thanat Khoman.



55 GRADUATE AT AIT CEREMONY

The Asian Institute of Technology awarded Master of Engineering degrees to 55 students at its ninth annual graduation ceremony on the school's campus last month. Mr. Mauro Galingo, Ambassador of the Philippines, presented diplomas to the record-size class of graduates from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand.

Following the academic procession, Dr. Puey Ungphakorn, Chairman of AIT's Board of Trustees and Governor of The Bank of Thailand, told the graduating class: "I understand that when the last among you receives his diploma this afternoon, there will be 282 graduates of what was originally the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering and in the past two years has become the Asian Institute of Technology. This growing body of men and women—through their professional affiliations—represent AIT's living contribution to reversing Asia's brain drain.". As of now, he said, 87 per cent of AIT's graduates are working in this part of the world. AIT engineers were sought by governments and industries for key positions throughout Suth-East Asia. No part of the infrastructure of any developing country was without engineering needs. "To keep your countries free, with a steadily improving standard of living, is your responsibility for the years ahead", he said. Some of those who received their degrees are pictured below at the graduation ceremony.



76 MECHANICS QUALIFY AT MTTS

Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Chief of Staff, Supreme Command, presided at the presentation of certificates to the seventh graduating class of the Military Technical Training School on June 6. The graduation ceremony was held on the premises of the School in Phaholyothin Road, in Bangkok.

The 76 new graduates has brought the total number to 473 since the School was set up in 1960 as an Australian-Thai joint project under the auspices of SEATO to help relieve the shortage of skilled engineering tradesmen in this country. Electrical fitting, machining, general fitting and metalsmithing are the four trades offered by the School in its 3-year curriculum.

Plans to add plumbing and motor mechanics to the course are being implemented, also with Australian assistance.

Graduates of the School are assigned to the various workshops and units of the Armed Forces.

On your Bookshelf

The following were added to the SEATO library during the months of May-June, 1969:

ARNDT, H.W. A Small Rich Industrial Country: studies in Australian development, aid and trade. Melbourne, Cheshire, 1968. 243p. 338.994

Asian Development Symposium. Asian Development After Vietnam. Tokyo, Asahi Shimbun, 1968. 184p., illus. 338.95

CLEMENS, WALTER C. The Arms Race and Sino-Soviet Relations. Stanford Univ. Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, 1968. xi, 335p. 341.67

FINDLAY, P.T. Protest Politics and Psychological Warfare. Melbourne, Hawthorn Press, 1968. 63p., illus. 336.430994

Malaysia Year Book 1968/9. Kuala Lumpur, The Malay Mail, 1969. 456p. 959.9

SIMMONDS, J.D. China: Evolution of a Revolution 1959-66· Canberra, Australian National Univ., 1968. Working Paper No. 9. 335.430951

SEATO. Military Medical Bulletin. Bangkok, Military Planning Office, 1969. Vol. II 355.345

The Statesman's Year-Book 1968-69; statistical and historical annual of the states of the world for the year 1968-1969. London, Macmillan, 1968. xxvii, 1727p. 305.8

SEATO PUBLICATIONS

(The following publications may be obtained, on request, from the Public Information Office, SEATO Headquarters, P.O. Box 517, Bangkok, Thailand.)

SEATO Annual Report 1967-68 (English, Thai) — by Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, Secretary-General of SEATO.

SEATO: 1954-1964 (Thai) — A pictorial and written review of 10 years of SEATO progress.

Story of SEATO (English, Thai)
Information pamphlet on SEATO with notes on member countries.

Manila Pact and Pacific Charter (revised 1968)
Texts of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty and the Pacific Charter, with explanatory notes.

Gandhara Sculpture in Pakistan (English, Thai)
The origin and development of Gandhara art.

Aspects of the History, Culture and Religions of Pakistan
Lectures by Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain Qureshi, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Karachi, as a travelling lecturer under the SEATO Cultural Programme.

Interpretative Translations of Thai Poets
by M.R. Seni Pramoj.

SEATO Activities Under the Cultural Relations Programme
SEATO activities from 1957-1964 in the field of education.

Post-graduate Studies in Asian SEATO Countries
A guide for applicants for SEATO post-graduate scholarships.

Collective Security: Shield of Freedom (Revised, 1963)
The nature and scope of the various collective security pacts linking 41 nations of the Free World. Foreword by Mr. Pote Sarasin, former Secretary-General of SEATO. 165 pp.

Medical
Research into Disease—I (Revised): Cholera (Pakistan —SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory) in English and Thai.

Research into Disease — II: The Search for Health (SEATO medical projects in Thailand).

Research into Disease—III: Malaria (SEATO Medical Research Laboratory, Bangkok) in English and Thai.

Community Development
Report of the SEATO Seminar on Community Development, July 19-23, 1965. In English and Thai.

The Role of Youth in Asia
Report of the SEATO Seminar on 'Youth's Response to Challenges in Asia', Feb. 13-17, 1967.

Skilled Workers for the Armed Forces (English, Thai)
A description of the SEATO Military Technical Training School, Bangkok.

Training Workers for Developing Industries (English, Thai)
An account of the SEATO Skilled Labour Project in Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

Posters:
Better Communications for Better Living (English, Thai)
Skilled Hands for National Progress (English, Thai)
The Painter's View of his Country — I
Good Health Key to National Prosperity
Highway To Health (SEATO-Cholera Research Laboratory, Dacca).
A Helping Hand On The Land (SEATO Agricultural Research Project).

Communist Economic Subversion: A Reappraisal
by Dr. Hans Heymann Jr. A discussion of the growing Communist reliance on economic measures as tools of foreign policy.

Peking on Revolution
Extracts from speeches and articles on the 90th anniversary of the birth of Lenin indicating the demand for revolutionary uprising.

Communism in Decline: the Huk Campaign
by Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas.

Defeating Communist Insurgency
by Sir Robert Thompson (Thai translation)

Radio Writers Handbook (English, Thai)
by Madeleine C. Meyer.

Printed by Sompong Chaicharoen at the Sompong Press Ltd. Part. 14/8 Pracharasdra Road, Bangkok, June 1969

BEING GUIDED DOWN ON TO THE FLIGHT DECK OF HMAS MELBOURNE FOLLOWING A RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT DURING SEATO'S RECENT EXERCISE 'SEA SPIRIT.'